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## ORIGINAL ARTICLES.

### LUPUS AND THE BACILLUS TUBERCULOSIS.

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OF WHEELING, W. VA.

THE question concerning the identity of lupus and tuberculosis, since the discovery of Koch's tubercle bacillus, has received much attention, and, notwithstanding the studies of the pathological anatomy of lupus by Virchow, Wedel, Auspitz, Kaposi, and Neumann, in Germany, and by Malassez, Grancher, J. Renaut, Chandelux, Vidal, and Leloir, in France, it is still a matter of discussion and difference of opinion.

The observations of Koch, Doutrelepont, Neisser, Lassar, Leumiski, Lewin, and other distinguished pathologists, which led them to regard lupus as nothing more nor less than a local tuberculosis of the skin, have been ably discussed and opposed by several careful authorities: notably by Schwimmer, of Budapesth, and Kaposi, of Vienna, both of whom base their declarations, opposing the view establishing the identity of lupus and tuberculosis, mainly on clinical grounds.

At the recent Berlin Congress, Schwimmer said that "the affection known as tuberculosis of the skin is a very rare one, while lupus occurs frequently." He found among 2,400 patients, 90 cases of lupus, but only 5 cases of pronounced tuberculosis of the skin. The clinical diagnosis in the latter affection is based on the bacterial proofs. Among the 90 lupus patients, he found 68 per cent. constitutionally untainted; in 15 per cent. only he found a hereditary element. These facts, he held, speak against any etiological relation between the two diseases.

In the latest edition, 1886, of *Les Bacteries*, by Cornil and Babes, in which is presented a summary of all the knowledge on the subject, these authors say:

"We have searched with Lewin for the bacillus of tuberculosis in a dozen cases of lupus, in material taken during life, and although we have examined several sections of each fragment taken, we have found but a single time a bacillus. Malassez, on the other hand, has looked in vain in several cases of lupus for the bacillus of tuberculosis. Pfeiffer, Doutrelepont, and Demme have been more fortunate, and have found it constantly.

"When Friedländer, Köster, and others had described the tubercular follicle with its giant-cells, and when it was well demonstrated that lupus gave the type, the most perfect, the identity of tuberculosis was proclaimed—lupus being considered a local tuberculosis of the skin. Such has been for some time the fixed opinion of Besnier.

"Leloir, had in 1882<sup>1</sup> commenced the inoculation of lupus. In these experiments made with one of us,

Leloir has obtained in half of the experiments<sup>1</sup> positive results, that is to say, a generalized tuberculosis in which the tubercles contained bacilli and gave rise to tuberculosis in successive inoculations. We have nevertheless remarked that the result was more slowly produced than when one employed the pulmonary tubercle as inoculating material.

"The most recent researches of Koch<sup>2</sup> demonstrate quite clearly the identity of tuberculosis and lupus. Koch has found four times the bacillus of tuberculosis in small numbers. In one case, for example, he was obliged to examine twenty-seven sections, and at another time forty-three sections, before finding a single one. But upon a series of successive sections, he found at one time one or two in each section. He has never seen more than a single bacillus in a giant-cell. Further, Koch has obtained in a pure state, cultures of the bacillus upon blood serum following the inoculation with material from hypertrophic lupus. One can then say, to-day, that tubercular lupus and lupus scléreux belong to tuberculosis."

By the light of the foregoing references, the following case, from the practice of Dr. J. F. Baldwin, of Columbus, Ohio, to whom I am greatly indebted for the report, may be of interest to those who have been engaged in the study and discussion of the question—Are lupus and tuberculosis identical? At least, the record is given for what it is worth.

January 9, 1887. Miss M., aged twenty-two. One sister died of consumption. Rest of family healthy. Has been failing rapidly for six months; cough, emaciation, anorexia, night sweats, etc. Examination of lungs by Dr. Baldwin revealed the usual evidences of advanced phthisis. Three years ago, she fell from a swing and caught her left index finger over a wire in such a way as (she says) to lacerate the flexor tendons. The skin was not broken. The finger became enlarged, but was not so painful as to keep her from working as a domestic. A few weeks ago, it became more tender and enlarged, and when Dr. Baldwin saw it, it presented a typical picture of specific dactylitis. On examination, he found it contained pus and was about ready to burst. He lanced it, and gave exit to quite an amount of sanious pus, though not as much as he had expected. The usual after-treatment directed. He saw her again on the 13th of January. A peculiar looking mass was presenting at the opening. The finger was nearly as large as before—about as it had been previously to the recent inflammation, she said—and hard: there were also two hard masses to be seen and felt along the flexor sheath in the palm of the hand. The protruding mass led him to fear sarcoma, from its appearance and feel, and he removed at once a considerable portion of it. To remove it all, would have required removal of the finger and a part of

<sup>1</sup> Cornil and Leloir: Société de Biologie, Juin, 1883.

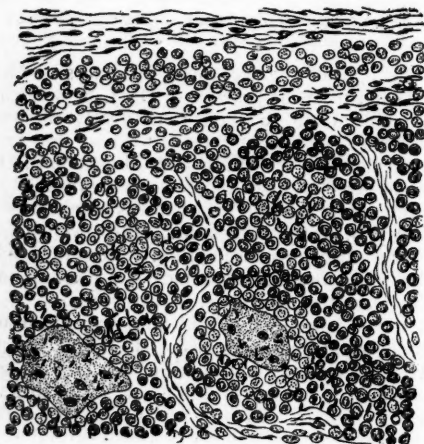
<sup>2</sup> Mittheilungen aus dem Kaiserlichen Gesundheitsamte von Dr. Struck, 2 vol., Berlin, 1884.

the hand, an operation which would not have been justifiable in her condition.

A portion of the removed mass was sent to me for microscopic examination. The wound did nicely, but the patient died of phthisis within the next three weeks.

The specimen sent me for microscopical study was passed through weak and absolute alcohols, cleared in spirits of turpentine, and then cast in paraffin. Twenty-eight sections were made, and stained so as to show bacilli if present, every one of which demonstrated typical giant-cells of tuberculosis, and countless numbers of tubercle-bacilli. Indeed, in all of my microscopical studies I have not found, even in lung-tissue, greater colonies of bacilli, neither sharper nor better definition, than in this specimen of lupus tissue. In proof that there was no mistake in the diagnosis—lupus—I have the honor to mention that sections were submitted to Prof. Wm. H. Welch, of Johns Hopkins University, who unhesitatingly pronounced the specimen lupus.

The accompanying illustration shows the microscopical appearance of the section.



× 350.

Prof. Welch's report is as follows:

"The microscopical appearances in the sections sent for examination are those of tuberculosis. The sections, which have been well prepared, are devoid of epithelium. The tissue is composed of typical miliary tubercles, of diffuse tuberculous tissue, and of a small amount of ordinary fibrillated connective tissue moderately rich in leucocytes. The miliary tubercles present a central part composed chiefly of large endothelioid cells, and a peripheral part in which small round cells predominate. In a few tubercles giant-cells are present. Central areas of coagulation-necrosis are to be found in only a small number of tubercles, and, when present, are of small size. The tubercles lie in diffuse tuberculous tissue composed mainly of endothelioid cells and of leucocytes.

In the sections stained for tubercle-bacilli, these bacilli are present in very large number, both within

the tuberculous nodules and in the diffuse tuberculous tissue. The bacilli lie, for the most part, scattered irregularly throughout the tissue, but here and there they are accumulated in clumps. The bacilli are both intracellular and extracellular; in the former case being found within the giant-cells and the endothelioid cells."

Since the foregoing was written Prof. George H. Rohé, of Baltimore, has kindly sent me a specimen of *lupus vulgaris*—an entire ear. The neoplastic cellular structure was found on microscopical examination to be precisely the same as in the specimen sent me by Dr. Baldwin; but showing fewer tubercle bacilli, which, possibly, may be accounted for by too long soaking and hardening of the specimen in strong alcohol, and the use of a stain not freshly made.

The following is the clinical history of the case furnished by Dr. Rohé:

"Mr. N., white, American, aged sixty-two, and by occupation a shoemaker, first noticed a brownish spot on his forehead about fourteen years ago. This spot increased slowly in size until it became as large as a twenty-five cent piece. It never ulcerated, and was never painful or itchy. About the same time he had a severe pulmonary affection which was attended by much cough, and later he had several slight hemorrhages, presumably from the lungs. About two years after the first appearance of the patch upon the forehead, a similar spot appeared upon the left cheek, which gradually extended until it reached downward below the jaw, forward to a line nearly perpendicular to the angle of the mouth, and upward and backward, invading the auricle, and extending for some distance (about two inches) into the hairy scalp. Under the left eye, and just within the malar prominence, a third spot appeared, which also eventually reached the size of a silver quarter.

"About the time the patch was first noticed on the left cheek the disease also invaded the right cheek, but did not become quite as extensive on this side of the face.

"The patient first consulted me in the spring of 1881. The disease presented the characteristic features of *lupus vulgaris*. The patient was shown at one of the medical societies in this city, and my diagnosis was concurred in by my friend Prof. I. E. Atkinson, who saw him on that occasion.

"No disease of the lungs could be detected when he first presented himself to me.

"The infiltrated patches on both cheeks, and the integument of the auricle became superficially ulcerated or eroded at times, but a simple dressing would rapidly promote cicatrization. There were never any deep ulcers.

"I scraped out the infiltrated patches on the cheeks with the curette on several occasions, and followed the scraping with nitric and chromic acids. The patch under the left eye was excised, and the edges united by fine silk sutures. This wound healed by first intention. The patient left the city about three years ago, and remained away for two years. Last year he returned and again presented himself. The lupus infiltration had generally returned, and the ear

remained in an ulcerating condition most of the time. Last summer he was prostrated by an attack of croupous pneumonia, since which time he has been more or less of an invalid. No active interference with the lupus was undertaken until January 16, 1887, when the ear, which annoyed him very much on account of the constant suppuration, was amputated with the thermo cautery. The wound healed kindly, and is now entirely cicatrized. For a time, last summer, electrolysis was tried on some parts of the infiltration, but with no very marked success. To-day, previous to writing these notes, I visited Mr. N., and on making a physical examination of his chest, found a cavity in the left apex, and disseminated mucous râles throughout the right lung. He is at present suffering from sciatica, for which complaint he is being treated by his family physician."

#### ELECTRICITY IN GYNECOLOGICAL PRACTICE.

BY ANDREW GRAYDON, M.D.,

CLINICAL ASSISTANT AT THE JEFFERSON MEDICAL COLLEGE HOSPITAL,  
AND CHIEF OF GYNECOLOGICAL CLINIC AT ST. MARY'S HOSPITAL,  
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CASE I.—*January 22, 1884.* R. S., colored, aged thirty-nine; married seventeen years, one child fifteen years ago. Menses regular, scanty, and painful. Bowels constipated. Uterus found mobile, sharply retroflexed, pressing upon the rectum, and obstructing it. The treatment consisted of the faradic current twice or thrice weekly, of five minutes' duration each.

*July 23.* Uterus is normal in position and curvature. All painful menstruation has disappeared. Bowels regular. Patient discharged cured. The record of this case is abridged. It belongs to a series started at that time which was interrupted. I make a note of it because the result was a marked one. The negative electrode was placed in the uterus, the positive in the bladder. The strength of the current was determined by the patient's endurance—not strong enough to be painful.

CASE II.—*June 9, 1886.* L. B., saleswoman; single, aged twenty-one. Three years ago she fell astride of a fence, at which time she was seized with an acute pain in the right ovarian region. This compelled her to remain some days in bed. Since that time she has had a constant pain, aggravated by standing, walking, or exercise of any kind, and worse at her menstrual periods. The pain is of a sharp, lancinating character, starting from the right ovarian region as a centre. Complains also of dragging, pelvic soreness, and backache, with general nervous irritability.

Examination shows the right ovary prolapsed and very painful to the touch; also some cellulitic deposits. The patient has been treated since her fall in the routine manner, iodine and glycerine tampons, hot water injections, counter-irritation, knee-chest position, etc., with no alleviation of symptoms.

An application of the galvanic current was now made in the following manner: the negative electrode was placed in the vagina, in contact with the sensitive ovary and the deposits; the positive was

held in the right hand. The strength of the current was four milliamperes. Length of treatment fifteen minutes.

*17th.* Treatment repeated.

*21st.* Treatment continued; five milliamperes. Patient not so sore.

Same treatment repeated on June 24th, July 8th, 12th, 19th, and 21st.

*August 4.* Treatment ten minutes, ten to eighteen milliamperes. Up to this date the improvement has been steady and unbroken. The ovary remains prolapsed, resisting any attempts at reposition, is entirely devoid of any sensitiveness, and the evidences of preëxisting cellulitis are diminished. With the local improvement the systemic disturbances also showed the good effect of the current. With the exception of a laxative at one time and a diuretic mixture at another, galvanism was the only treatment she received. She was discharged to-day, with the direction to report to us on the first evidence of any trouble.

*March 1, 1887.* Saw the patient to-day. She states that she has been free from all pain in the pelvis since she last saw us; that her menstrual periods are regular and painless, and that she has been able to attend to her work in the store.

CASE III.—*June 15, 1886.* L. L., aged twenty-four; married five years, sterile; suffers with severe dysmenorrhœa. She applied, August, 1884, to the hospital for relief; received no permanent benefit, and was transferred on this date to me for electrical treatment. The uterus is sharply ante flexed. She was treated with the faradic current, taking patient's feelings as the guide to the strength, each application averaging fifteen minutes, twice and thrice weekly, beginning four days after each menstrual epoch. The negative electrode was placed in the uterus, and the positive in the rectum.

*July 10.* The first menstrual period since beginning treatment has just passed with less pain.

*August 17.* This menstrual flow was increased in quantity. Slight pain. This increase in discharge was noticed in all our cases in which we used faradism.

*September 18.* Menstrual period similar to last one.

*October 20.* Menses from 10th to 17th. No pain. The curve of the canal was taken again to-day, and was markedly diminished.

*November 20.* Menses on from 12th to 14th. No pain whatever.

*December 10.* Patient discharged cured. Directed to report in a month.

*February 2, 1887.* Examination shows uterus in normal position and with normal curvature. Menses continued regular and painless.

CASE IV.—*October 2, 1886.* A. A., aged twenty-six, married three years, sterile. Puberty at fifteen; menstruation irregular for past two years. Bowels constipated. Uterus strongly retroflexed. Treatment same as Case I., twice and thrice weekly.

*March 30, 1887.* Condition greatly improved. Menses regular and painless, being before treatment very painful. The retroflexion, though not so sharp, remains.



CASE V.—*June 12, 1886.* A. W., single, aged twenty-five. Complaints of persistent backache, with dragging pelvic pains. Has also a great sensitiveness of the external genitalia and vaginal walls. A condition of chronic pelvic cellulitis was found upon examination, the uterus being bound down.

The galvanic current was given the patient twice a week, changing the position of the electrodes so that the current thoroughly penetrated all the cicatricial bands, and came in contact with the sensitive parts. She was treated from June 12th to July 24th, seven applications in all, with positive relief to all her symptoms, and was then transferred to another department.

CASE VI.—*June 23, 1886.* M. A., colored, aged twenty-six. Married seven years. Sterile. Puberty at seventeen; menstruation normal up to marriage as to time and duration, but always very painful before and during the flow. Has also severe pain in the sacral and inguinal regions. Bowels regular. General health fair. Uterus sharply anteverted.

The curvature admitted the sound on the finger with difficulty, a condition of stenosis existing also. Treatment of this case was by the faradic current after manner of Case III.

*October 27.* In the beginning we could scarcely introduce a flexible electrode, and that only after straightening the uterus with a tenaculum. The improvement kept step with the treatment. At this date the curve is greatly diminished.

The dysmenorrhœa has disappeared, and with it all backache and pelvic pain.

*December 27.* She complains of the reappearance of the pelvic soreness. Galvanic current was applied, ten milliamperes, fifteen minutes.

*March 30, 1887.* Galvanic current continued to the present time. Pain disappeared. Uterus normal in curvature and position. Menses regular and painless.

CASE VII.—*June 30, 1886.* L. F., aged forty. Married twenty-two years. One child twenty-one years ago. Never pregnant since. Puberty at fourteen, regular as to time and duration, but has severe pain with each period. Gives a history of acute pelvic cellulitis four years ago. Has had metrorrhagia at different times since. Has been treated for the past four years by the routine treatment, iodine, glycerine tampons, boracic acid, etc., with the varying results obtainable in this class of ailments. She suffers with the constant aches and dragging pelvic pains that make life to a woman, thus afflicted, almost unbearable.

Examination gives a condition of chronic cellulitis. Uterus immovable. Nodules are distinctly felt behind and on the right side of the cervix, very sensitive to the touch. Treatment, galvanic current; negative electrode in the vagina, resting against these tender lumps, and the positive on the sacrum. Strength of current fifteen milliamperes, thrice weekly.

*July 15.* Pelvic pains have disappeared. Less tenderness upon examination.

*December 11.* Attention was to-day called to some hemorrhage the patient had eighteen days after her last menstrual period. A sore spot on the

posterior vaginal wall was found, caused evidently by the current having been applied stronger than fifteen milliamperes. This healed readily under the use of an iodoform ointment. The uterus shows more mobility, and the cellulitic deposits considerable diminution.

*March 31, 1887.* The treatment has continued to the present time, one to three times a week. The uterus is freely movable, the evidences of pelvic cellulitis have entirely disappeared. There is no sensitiveness to the touch. She says she has "no backaches or any pain." Menses are regular, lasting three days, without pain. Discharged cured.

CASE VIII.—*October 26, 1886.* A. W., aged forty-five. Married, had one child and three miscarriages; last miscarriage was twelve years ago, from which time she dates her trouble. Complaints of constant diffuse pelvic pain, sacral and crural neuralgia of the right side. Uterus was found immovably fixed, with hard, tender nodules to the right side of the cervix. She was treated with the galvanic current.

*November 2.* The patient was treated twice, and to day she expressed herself as feeling "a great deal better." She did not visit us again.

CASE IX.—*November 4, 1886.* Mrs. B., aged forty-seven. Married twenty-six years; five children and two miscarriages. Was operated upon for lacerated perineum, December, 1885, which was followed by an attack of pelvic inflammation. Puberty at thirteen, and after three years her menses became regular as to intervals, but each period lasted a week, was profuse in flow, and preceded by severe pain. She was always compelled to remain in bed one week at these times. This condition has been growing worse since the operation.

The uterus is retroflexed, prolapsed, and adherent, measures three and a half inches; vaginal vault rigid and tense; retro-uterine ligaments are contracted. The sensitiveness of the patient is so great as to make the examination almost more than she can endure. She says the pain in her back and limbs prevent her from standing any length of time. Cannot do her own work; is a burden to herself. She was put upon the galvanic treatment in the usual manner and strength. After the third treatment (November 15, 1886) she reports improvement; less pain, feels stronger.

*March 31, 1887.* Her visits averaged five monthly, fifteen minutes each, fifteen milliamperes. The improvement has been steady, and at this date she "feels better than she ever did in her life." Menses are normal in character. Is able to be about on her feet for a longer time with comfort. Is gaining in weight. Tenderness in the vagina less marked. Uterus more mobile, can be moved about with less pain to the patient. Treatment continues.

CASE X.—*December 14, 1886.* E. J. J., aged twenty-eight, colored. Married seven years; one child six years ago; instrumental delivery, dead child. This patient presented herself with a large subperitoneal fibroid filling the posterior *cul de sac*, and extending to the right. The examination was attended with very great pain, the nodules being



very sensitive. She scarcely tolerated the introduction of the finger. Electrolysis was proposed, but the patient objected, and it was concluded to put her upon the usual galvanic treatment, with the view of reducing the pain, and possibly the size of the tumor.

*March 31, 1887.* She was given two treatments a week at first, fifteen milliamperes, fifteen minutes. After the sixth application the soreness had entirely disappeared. For the past month she has received three treatments weekly. The improvement as to the pain and discomfort continued permanent, but the size of the tumor has undergone no appreciable decrease.

**CASE XI.—December 22, 1886.** M. O., aged twenty-eight. Married six years. One child and one miscarriage. Miscarriage in second month of marriage. Never been well since birth of child three years ago. Is not able to be about her house work. Has "constant pain and weakness in her left side," with feeling of heaviness, which condition is aggravated by standing, walking, or exercise of any kind.

Puberty at eleven. Menses are irregular in time, and the duration of each period is six days, with pain in first two days. Has lost forty pounds since marriage.

Uterus is retroflexed, prolapsed, measures three and a half inches. Os and canal patulous. Some cellulitic deposits are found in the posterior cul-de-sac.

*March 31, 1887.* She was, at first, treated with the faradic current, with the hope of rectifying the displacement. After seven treatments, averaging twice a week, with relief to the painful menstruation as a result, but no effect upon the flexion, galvanism was substituted, on account of the cellulitic features of the case.

At this date she says she has gained twelve pounds since beginning the treatment. Is better in every respect. Menses are regular and painless. The deposits have diminished in size and sensitiveness. This patient comes a distance of seventy miles three times a week.

I have submitted these cases, thinking they might be of interest to the profession, as I am confident that the treatment will prove beneficial if tried. They have been collected hastily from my case-book, with no attempt at elaboration.

The method of treatment is detailed under the individual cases. In sharp flexions we begin with a flexible electrode insulated to within two inches of the tip, and as soon as the curve of the uterus will allow, this is replaced by a stiff one, similar to a uterine sound, with the same insulation as the flexible one. This we are in the habit of connecting with the negative pole of the faradic machine. Although the choice of poles is *here* a matter of little importance, in galvanism it is. In the case of a retroflexion, the positive electrode is introduced into the bladder. If it be an antelexion, a flexible twisted wire electrode is placed in the rectum. This electrode is insulated up to the point, which is a movable olive, allowing graded sizes to be used. This form

of electrode is also found of service in treating constipation, etc., as it will follow the convulsion of the bowels with ease and little pain.

The electrodes should always be placed in position before turning on the current. In the beginning a painless current should be used, slowly increasing to the point of the patient's comfortable endurance. I have found a hydro-rheostat necessary to the proper gradation of the current, since the weakest current I could get from an ordinary one cell machine always caused pain when applied through these organs. And if the patient is subjected to an ordeal of suffering at each treatment, her confidence and presence are both lost. Length of treatment is with us fifteen minutes, double that time three times a week will give better results.

In the use of the galvanic current there are some points of importance.

1. A milliamperemeter should be always used. Patients cannot be treated scientifically without it. With it we can always give them the same quantity at each treatment. This is impossible if we depend on the number of cells as a guide, since the internal and external resistance vary. I have frequently found that it required twice as many cells to give one day the current I had received from half the number the day before, this fact depending upon both battery and patient.

2. The current should never cause pain, nothing is gained by increasing it to that degree. In Case II. I used four milliamperes, as a rule, once five, and at another time eighteen to twenty milliamperes. In all the others I averaged fifteen milliamperes. In three instances I cauterized the vaginal surface when I exceeded that strength. A rheostat will be valuable in enabling the current to be gradually increased at the beginning and diminished at the end of each treatment.

3. Position of the electrodes. As the result of cauterization by the negative pole is that of an alkaline caustic, soft and more readily absorbed, while the positive is that of an acid, more dense and firm, the negative should be placed in the vagina in contact with the part to be acted upon. We thus obtain the sedative and electrolytic effect, at these points, upon the cellulitic products.

4. Electrodes. For external position I use a plate of copper, five by six inches, covered with Canton flannel and backed with pure rubber. Internally, a straight stiff rod, terminating in a movable olive, of which we have different sizes. This is insulated with rubber to the olive, with walnut handles on the other end. Covering the olive with absorbent cotton, or a disk of Canton flannel, and wetting it in warm water, it is ready for use. The placing of these does not require any exposure of the patient.

5. The electrodes should always be placed in position before connecting them with the battery, then the current turned off gradually by means of the rheostat before removing them. Neglect of this will cause pain to the patient as the electrode passes over the perineum. A bifurcated conducting cord should be used, so that when the current is increased it will not be necessary to break the current, and thus we avoid giving any shock to the patient.

The conclusion that I draw from my work is, that in electricity we have a valuable agent. In uterine displacements, ill developed ovaries and uterus with amenorrhœa, and in subinvolution the faradic current may be used with advantage. But it is the galvanic that I have found the more valuable. All who have had anything to do with gynecological work know how stubborn many conditions are, and how slow to respond to remedial measures. Many of these cause the patient constant pain, "misery" as they term it. Chronic ovaritis, pachysalpingitis, chronic peritonitis, cellulitis, and lymphadenitis, also pelvic neuralgia, try the skill and patience of the physician. After all the routine treatment is exhausted the condition remains very much unchanged.

Now in electricity we have an agent that promotes absorption of the adventitious tissue, allays pain and irritation, and sets up reparative action. It is within the reach of all physicians, requires no very extended knowledge to be able to use it with safety and advantage; and, although it requires time in its application, the benefits it confers upon a class of patients, in which other treatment is either useless or harmful, amply repay for any outlay of time and the little expense attending it.

I am indebted to my friend, Dr. William E. Ashton, for his kind assistance in this work.

1437 NORTH TWELFTH STREET.

### THE PENNSYLVANIA HOSPITAL OPERATING-TABLE AND WARD DRESSING-CARRIAGE.

BY THOMAS S. K. MORTON, M.D.,

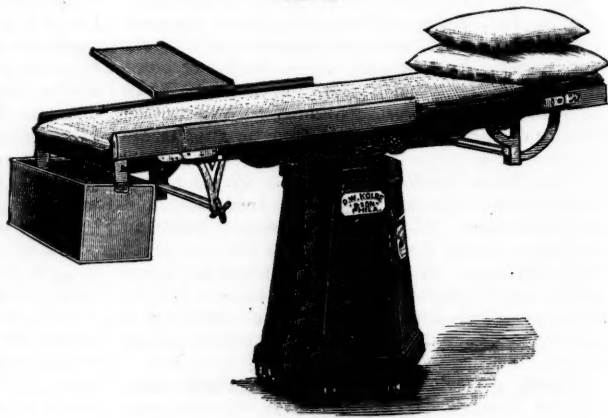
LATE RESIDENT SURGEON, PENNSYLVANIA AND ORTHOPEDIC HOSPITALS,  
MEMBER COUNTY MEDICAL AND PATHOLOGICAL SOCIETIES OF  
PHILADELPHIA.

In the evolution of such a principle as that known as the Listerian, many more or less new means must be devised for the practical, or perhaps luxurious, carrying out of its various modes of application. Two such I wish to describe, namely, an operating bed or table, with suitable draining apparatus; and a ward dressing-carriage modified to an antiseptic end. Both have been in constant and satisfactory use in the Pennsylvania Hospital since my introduction of them there; also, they are now in service elsewhere.

The operating-table is constructed of suitable hard wood, and revolves upon a heavy pedestal, as is usual with such tables, but differs from them in being placed upon the support at a considerable angle (Fig. 1). The measurements are as follows: length, 6½ feet; breadth, 25 inches; head 38 inches, centre 36 inches, and foot 33 inches from the floor. Beginning at the foot, and running 40 inches toward the head is a wooden rail 2 inches high, while at the end of the table is swung a zinc tank of from 5 to 10 gallons capacity. The great

secret of the table's proper working is the mattress. This is made of felt one inch thick, such as steam-pipes are wrapped with, and is exceedingly cheap. While presenting a soft, comfortable surface, pressure will not make hollows in it.

FIG. 1.



This mattress is sewn into a rubber bag, and after being placed upon the table, a large rubber sheet covers both it and the table. The ends of this rubber cover are tucked into the pan, where the side rails must direct all fluids falling upon it.

If the part to be operated upon is below the chest, the patient's head occupies the highest portion of the table; but if the operation be above that point, his head is placed at the foot of the table, and upon a small pillow, so that the fluids will run around it, and into the pan. In operations upon the arm or axilla, a special attachment is put on by means of an angled iron and slot in the table to receive it (see Fig. 1). This attachment consists of a board, also upon a decided incline and with side rails, so that when a smaller rubber cover is thrown over it fluids will be conveyed upon the main sheet, alongside the patient's head (which is at the foot of the table), and so into the pan.

I have also had constructed, upon practically the same model, an iron bed for use in the receiving wards of the hospital, which is found of great use.

With these beds the most perfect drainage is secured, and the usual great inconveniences of free irrigation, to both surgeon and patient, are entirely overcome.

The ward dressing-carriage is made upon the general model of the original ward carriage introduced first by my father, many years ago, in the Pennsylvania Hospital. The modifications are two or more superimposed tanks instead of one; a basin and spigot at one end; a dressing preparing-tray, and suitable receptacles for the modern dressing as used in this hospital.

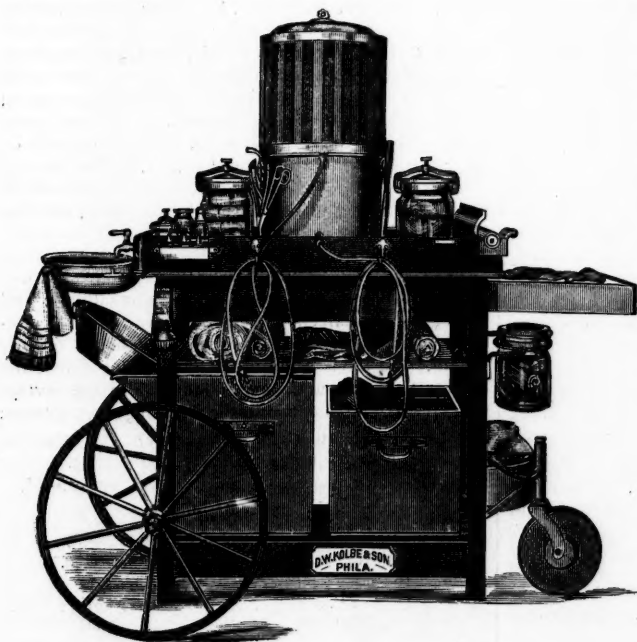
As now used (Fig. 2), the carriage has two tanks—a copper one beneath for either distilled or carbolized water, and an upper stone jar or tank for HgCl<sub>2</sub> solution. The upper tank is enclosed with wood, and has a copper lid.

Both tanks have hose attachments for wound washing, while the lower one has also an attachment to a spigot which overhangs a pivoted basin at one end of the carriage for hand washing. This basin is pivoted a little in advance of its centre, in an iron ring, and empties by tipping its contents into the common waste-bucket or tank below.

In front of the carriage a long, zinc-covered tray pulls out, on which dressings are prepared. Upon the carriage are kept, in jars, dressings, cotton, sponges, towels, gauze bandages, protective, and drain tubes; also minor operating instruments in a zinc or glass tray, constantly immersed in a three per cent. carbolized glycerine solution, and are, in addition, boiled in water every night. Bandage and plaster scissors, a palette-knife, common cotton bandages, towels, and lint, a large sugar-duster for iodoform, bottles for iodine, turpentine, alcohol, fluid soap, soap liniment, and a jar of boracic acid ointment, together with basins, rubber cloth, wax paper, soap dish, nail brush, adhesive plaster, and lamp, about complete the dressing-carriage outfit. All portions of the carriage are simple of construction, and are daily taken apart and rigorously cleansed.

The table and carriage are both manufactured by D. W. Kolbe & Son, of this city.

FIG. 2.



All instruments kept in the receiving wards, or upon the ward carriages, of this institution I have had put into carbolized glycerine, and kept as indicated above; and now, thanks to the suggestion of my former colleague, Dr. E. G. Rhoads, even the hypodermic needles of the entire house are thus kept.

A final word in regard to the irrigation arrangements which I have introduced in our main operating-room may not be out of place. Until arrangements can be made to secure an unlimited supply of distilled water, we are using—when it is clear—simple running water. The irrigators are suspended in a rack close to a hot water faucet, from which they can be rapidly filled; they then receive their quota of antiseptic. These irrigators are common one-gallon percolator jars, to one end of which are attached four feet of rubber tubing and a hard-rubber stopcock, while to the other, or open, end an attachment is secured by which they may be hung conveniently upon an iron bar or tube which runs across the centre of the operating-room, seven and a half feet from the floor, and has hooks a foot apart upon its under surface.

## MEDICAL PROGRESS.

**MANIPULATION OF THE KIDNEY.**—DR. W. H. BENNETT, of London, reports in the *Lancet* of May 21, 1887, his treatment of a case of probably impacted calculus. He says, "Seeing the ease with which the kidney could be felt, partly by reason of the thinness of the patient, I determined, as drugs afforded no relief, to insure complete relaxation of the abdominal parietes by the administration of an anæsthetic, and then manipulate the kidney as freely as possible, without previously exposing it by incision, with a view, if the case were one of calculus, to disturbing the stone, and, if it were not too large, perhaps bringing about its passage down the ureter, or, in the event of the symptoms being 'hysterical,' with the hope of producing a mental effect upon the patient sufficient to relieve her distress. She, however, declined the anæsthetic, and I was compelled to attempt the manipulation without its aid. The patient having been laid on her back upon a couch, the fingers of my left hand were dipped deeply into the abdominal wall over the kidney, the right hand being pressed forward into the loin. By a little management, the muscles being quite flaccid from the patient having become faint, the kidney could be felt quite easily between the two hands, and was kneaded as thoroughly as the circumstances allowed. The patient, although much discontented with the aching and tenderness which the operation seemed to have caused, was well enough to walk away almost directly afterward.

"Two days later she reappeared at the hospital in a more grateful mood, saying that, having suffered much discomfort for the rest of the day after the manipulation, she was seized as she was going to bed with a most acute pain in the affected loin and side of the abdomen. The pain lasted for about half an hour, during which she vomited twice. All at once an uncontrollable de-



sire to micturate occurred, and the pain immediately ceased. No further pain followed, and there can be little doubt that a small calculus had made its way down the ureter into the bladder, although no evidence of its having passed 'per urethram' was forthcoming. Moreover, it is quite possible that the manipulation had moved the stone from its resting-place in the kidney, and thus brought about its expulsion."

He ventures to suggest that manipulation without incision is a proceeding worthy of trial as a treatment which may possibly prove of utility in certain cases of renal calculus, not too far advanced, as a means of changing the position of the stone, and perhaps effecting its expulsion—a possibility, to his mind, sufficiently strong to commend the process to the attention of physicians as an adjunct to the medical treatment of renal calculus.

**BERGEON'S TREATMENT OF PHTHISIS.—DR. HERON**, of London, reports his experience as follows in the *British Medical Journal* of May 21, 1887: My study of Bergeon's treatment was commenced in October of last year, and was chiefly conducted in my wards in the City of London Hospital for Chest Diseases. The cases I selected were certainly tubercular, as was shown by the physical signs of lung-disease, and the presence in the sputum of each patient of the tubercle bacillus. As regards the kind of case selected, it was of the type in which fever was not high, the urine free from albumen, and expectoration was moderately copious.

In not one single instance in which this treatment was carried out under my supervision was there the slightest evidence of any permanent good result having been achieved. Beyond a diminution of the amount of expectoration, an occasional lessening of the cough, and an unimportant lowering of the temperature, there was no evidence of any benefit having been derived from Bergeon's treatment in these cases of mine. As those results can be secured by means less unpleasant to the patient than Bergeon's method, I have ceased to employ it in the treatment of tubercular disease of the lungs.

**THE TREATMENT OF PULMONARY CONSUMPTION BY HYPODERMATIC INJECTIONS OF SUBSTANCES DISSOLVED IN VASELINE.**—Our readers will remember that in THE MEDICAL NEWS of February 26, 1887, p. 240, and April 23, 1887, p. 466, we gave a series of formulæ for the hypodermatic use of substances dissolved in vaseline, as proposed by MEUNIER, of Lyons. We add the following formulæ, which Meunier considers especially adapted to the treatment of pulmonary phthisis, and which he publishes in an article in the *Revue Générale de Clinique et de Thérapeutique* for May 19, 1887:

- 1.—Eucalyptol . . . . . 1 part.  
Liquid pure vaseline . . . . . 4 parts.

This solution affects the bacilli but little, but lessens fever and secretion, especially in bronchorrhœa; in small doses it is a tonic.

Dosage forty minims twice daily.

- 2.—Phenol (carbolic acid) pure . . . . . 1 part.  
Eucalyptol . . . . . 1 "  
Liquid pure vaseline . . . . . 18 parts.

Eucalyptol is employed to aid in dissolving the carbolic acid, which is sparingly soluble in vaseline.

This solution diminishes the number of bacilli, and replaces with advantage the preparations of creasote which disturb the stomach; it lessens fever.

Dosage, one injection daily of eighty minims, or two of forty minims.

- 3.—Iodine . . . . . 1 part.  
Liquid pure vaseline . . . . . 100 parts.

Beneficial in scrofula, tuberculosis, asthma, and tertiary syphilis.

Dosage, forty minims night and morning, daily.

- 4.—Eucalyptol . . . . . 20 parts.  
Iodoform . . . . . 1 part.  
Liquid pure vaseline . . . . . 80 parts.

In infectious diseases, phthisis pulmonalis, and chronic bronchitis.

Dosage, forty minims twice daily.

These solutions may be used in phthisis in rotation in periods of five days each. The reason of rotation is to avoid the cumulative effect of eucalyptol, which is manifested by depression and loss of appetite of the patient. These solutions influence, to some extent, the life of the bacilli.

**COFFEE AND IODOFORM.**—DR. NEALE writes as follows of his experience with this combination in the *British Medical Journal* of May 21, 1887: Valuable as coffee, when freshly ground, has proved in disguising the odor of iodoform, it has the following disadvantages: 1. It is only for a limited period that its effects last; and, 2, it is very difficult to grind the coffee so fine as to prevent the grains irritating a sore part; and especially is this felt if the iodoform be used in the form of an ointment. I have found that by macerating the coffee in hot lard or vaseline, all the deodorizing powers are absorbed by and retained in the vehicle employed, and a perfectly smooth, inodorous, and un-irritating ointment can be prepared.

**THE TREATMENT OF DIARRHŒA IN INFANTS.**—CONBY, of Paris, describes the symptomatology and etiology of this affection, stating that, in Paris, the mortality from this disease during the summer is 600 per month. He advises the use of dietetic measures; the subnitrate of bismuth, and laudanum. In the severer cases the writer recommends the following prescriptions:

- 1.—Aquæ destillat. . . . . 3 12½.  
Syrup of quince . . . . . 3 5.  
Acid hydrochloric. dil. . . . . m 8.—M.

Sig. Teaspoonful every two hours.

- 2.—Sacch. pulver. . . . . 3 2½.  
Naphthalin . . . . . gr. 15.  
Iodoform. . . . . gr. 3.  
Ol. bergamot. . . . . gtt. 2.—M.

Ft. in chart. 20 in num.

Sig. One powder every hour, in milk.

- 3.—Naphthalin. . . . . gr. 8.  
Spirit. vini Gallici . . . . . 3 2½.  
Syrup. althææ . . . . . 3 12½.—M.

Sig. To be taken during twenty-four hours, in teaspoonful or coffee spoonful doses.—*L'Abeille Médicale*, May 16, 1887.

# THE MEDICAL NEWS.

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OF MEDICAL SCIENCE.

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SATURDAY, JUNE 25, 1887.

## INTRALARYNGEAL PAPILLOMA AND EPITHELIOMA.

DISCRIMINATION between intralaryngeal epithelioma and sessile papilloma is not difficult in the majority of instances; the clinical history of the case, the age of the patient, the location and physical appearances of the neoplasm being sufficiently characteristic to establish the diagnosis. During a limited period in the growth and progress of some instances of epithelioma in the larynx, however, considerable difficulty may be experienced in its differentiation from sessile papilloma; the uncertainty being resolvable neither by laryngoscopic inspection of the undisturbed neoplasm, nor by microscopic inspection of excised fragments.

Papilloma is often presumptively an outgrowth from fibrous hyperplasia in repair of erosions or deeper losses of substance in chronic inflammatory processes in the mucous membrane, or in long-continued inflammation without losses of substance. It remains an outgrowth, and does not infiltrate the submucous connective tissue. It increases at its periphery by the division of the papillæ, and at the base by general enlargement only, so that the circumference at the base is smaller than in some parts of the free portion, sometimes smaller than in any other portion of the growth. In many instances several growths are developed singly, in close proximity, and, contracting adhesions, subsequently augment in bulk as a single mass. These are the growths that resemble some examples of epithelioma at a certain stage of its progress. Hence, with a clinical history of hoarseness and dyspnoea following a laryngitis, a mass of sessile warty excrescence in the larynx, bulkier in some portion of its body than at its base, with or without congestion or inflammatory

tumefaction of the surrounding mucous membrane, may well be regarded as papilloma in the absence of histological evidence to the contrary.

Epithelioma is not, as a rule, directly referable to general laryngitis as a cause of attendant hoarseness and dyspnoea. It does not undergo demarcation at its base. It does not remain an outgrowth of the mucous membrane, even though it originate therein, but it infiltrates the submucous connective tissue, so that any surrounding congested or inflamed mucous membrane presents a deformed semiglobose, ovoidal, or bossellated outline in marked contrast to the more diffuse inflammatory tumefaction adjoining the benign growth. In the earlier stages of epithelioma this deformity of structure precedes the distinctive appearance of a tumor; but, as a rule, laryngoscopic inspection is not made until after this period has passed, and so an important discriminating feature escapes recognition. Epithelioma of the larynx, too, and especially when it occupies a vocal band, sometimes becomes overlaid with papillomatous outgrowths; perhaps due here, likewise, to inflammation of the mucous membrane from functional irritation in talking and in coughing. In this stage of its progress it is indeed difficult to differentiate from pure papilloma, especially when seen laryngoscopically for the first time in an apparently healthy subject. It is in this stage, too, that absolute reliance cannot be placed upon the negative results of microscopic examination of fragments removed for the purpose; for the papillomatous outgrowths alone may be detachable by access of instruments through the mouth; a circumstance under which absence of evidence of histologic malignancy is no criterion as to the real nature of the main portion of the neoplasm. Furthermore, in a most instructive instance in Semon's practice, recently announced in the *Brit. Med. Journ.* of June 4, 1887, p. 1240, a warty growth removed from a vocal band showed typical epithelioma in close juxtaposition to inflammatory tissue in one and the same section, as prepared for microscopy. Thus an apparently benign growth may have an actual malign integrant that would escape detection, not only under ordinary inspection, but even under ordinary microscopic interrogation. This fact raises the question whether the benign growths hitherto supposed to have undergone transformation into malign ones without extraneous influence, may not have been histologically malignant from the start. It likewise tends to confirm the opinion of most laryngologists, that an underlying tendency to malignancy exists, if not absolute malignancy, even in those occasional instances in which, after subjection to repeated or long-continued irritation, epithelioma has been eventually demonstrated in growths to all appearance originally benign. Such irritation has been attributed in some

instances to functional disturbance in coughing and in talking; and in others to operative interference, whether in repeated cauterizations with a view to destruction, or in instrumental procedures for purposes of evulsion. The more skilled the laryngoscopic operator, the less likely is subjection of a neoplasm, or its surrounding tissue, to useless or pernicious irritation; and the better his judgment, the more likely will be early cessation of the inefficacious irritative procedure and resort to a more radical one.

The treatment of these doubtful cases will cast the utmost responsibility upon the medical attendant; a responsibility in which his judgment is at stake equally with his skill. Time is valuable; extremely so in malignant cases; and, for the time being, hardly less so in cases clinically malign by their location, although benign histologically. To subject a doubtful case to extreme measures may unnecessarily deprive the patient of an important organ, or even imperil his life. To delay such measures too long may sacrifice his only chance for recovery.

We would say that due intralaryngeal interference under the most promising conditions having proved inadequate to the eradication of a suspicious morbid growth, whether from position, from bulk, or from recurrence, the proper plan would be to divide the anterior wall of the larynx so that, if at all practicable, the morbid mass may be thoroughly eradicated by direct access; the decision having been previously made, whether, in case the proposed eradication should be found impracticable, radical laryngectomy procedures, partial, complete, or complex, should immediately follow, or whether subsequent treatment should remain confined to measures merely palliative and symptomatic. In coming to this decision due prominence must be given to the risk of death from laryngectomy or its immediate consequences; and to the likelihood of recurrence after a successful operation; for the instances of epithelioma of the larynx in which life has been prolonged by laryngectomy beyond its probable continuance under the undisturbed progress of the disease, are still far less numerous than those in which the remnant of life has been shortened.

Intralaryngeal epithelioma remains confined to the inner portion of the tube for a long while before extending beyond its borders or through its walls; and consequently, if the general health of the patient does not suffer in the interval, a serious operation like that of excision of the larynx, unilateral or bilateral as may be, may well await positive demonstration that the deeper seated portions of a doubtful growth are more malignant in character than any inflammatory growths or outgrowths which may have been removed. Even then, too, it may be possible to cut away merely the respiratory walls

infiltrated with the neoplasm and thus save the wings of the thyroid cartilage with their important attachments of the muscles of deglutition; an operation involving far less immediate risk to life than excision of the whole of the laryngeal skeleton; and which, theoretically at least, should be equally efficacious in ridding a patient of disease limited to the interior of his larynx.

In cases of undoubted papilloma so extensive or so located as to preclude eradication through the mouth, or exhibiting uncontrollable recurrence, it is far better to divide the larynx externally and to operate efficiently in the direct manner, than to continue to tear away little fragments at a time, indefinitely to little purpose.

#### THE TREATMENT OF TUBERCULOSIS OF THE JOINTS BY ACID CALCIUM PHOSPHATE.

At a recent meeting of the Society of Physicians of Vienna, KOLISCHER, of Vienna, exhibited four cases of tubercular joints, three of which had recovered, while the fourth was in process of recovery, under a method of treatment which he had recently introduced, which aimed at the destruction of tubercle bacilli and the induction of calcification in tuberculous matter, in imitation of the process often observed in healed lung cavities. It is supposed to act by producing a mild grade of inflammation and cicatrization which destroys tuberculous matter. The method consisted in the injection into the diseased joints of a solution of acid calcium phosphate, whose strength and dosage are not reported.

In one class of cases a prompt inflammatory reaction followed the injection, lasting from four to seven days, and was succeeded by a period of calcification which continued from two to four weeks, ending in absorption; the final result was a restoration of the contour of the joint. In the other class of cases—those in which cheesy degeneration was rapidly progressing—injections into the joints were followed in about a week by the breaking down of tubercle and the rupture and discharge of the abscess; and healing by granulation resulted promptly. Cicatrization of tuberculous ulcers and separation of necrosed bone were readily caused by the solution. Tuberculous fistulae and cavities were tamponed by gauze saturated with the solution.

The cures exhibited were two cases of acute tuberculosis of the elbow-joint in children; the results were normal contour, good motion, absence of all general symptoms. Also a case of knee-joint tuberculosis, under treatment six weeks, whose gait and symptoms were greatly improved. The fourth case was a man, whose carpal joint had been acutely tuberculous; result normal contour, the joint capsule filled with calcified material; slight movements of the fingers possible.



ALBERT, MAYDL, and others of the surgical staff of the Vienna Krankenhaus, fully endorsed the favorable statements of Kolischer.

While these cases are too few to base a final judgment upon, they are highly suggestive. The results of this method, so far as contour and mobility are concerned, are greatly superior to ankylosis, or excision. The danger to life is apparently less than even under antiseptic resections; the time consumed by the treatment is no longer than by excision. It remains to be proved, however, whether the nidus of the tubercular infection is as thoroughly destroyed by this method as by excision, and the use of iodoform.

#### DEATH IN THE TEA-BUN.

LAST JANUARY THE MEDICAL NEWS called attention to the fact that bakers were using a preparation known to the trade as "egg-yolk," which contains chromate of lead, to impart to their cakes the rich yellow color which is given by egg—and the risk of lead poisoning thereby was pointed out. In our issue of last Saturday, we presented a report by DR. DAVID D. STEWART of eight cases of illness in one family which came under his observation, and which he had by patient and intelligent investigation clearly traced to poisoning from eating tea-buns containing chromate of lead. Of these cases four died. He also ascertained that the baker who made these buns had had within two years nine cases of similar illness in his own household, of which seven had been fatal.

Our report of these eleven fatal cases has attracted the attention of the District Attorney, who has brought the matter to the official notice of the Coroner for investigation, and the Board of Health has also referred the subject to its Sanitary Committee, so that we may hope that the publication of these cases will lead to effective measures for the immediate suppression of this insidious source of poisonous adulteration, which is probably more widely practised than is generally supposed.

THE Board of Overseers of Harvard University have just confirmed the following appointments in the Medical Faculty: Dr. C. B. Porter, Professor of Clinical Surgery, and Dr. J. Collins Warren, Associate Professor of Surgery.

THE American Orthopædic Association was organized and the first meeting held at New York last week, under the temporary chairmanship of Dr. Virgil P. Gibney, of New York. A number of excellent papers were read, and the following officers were elected for the ensuing year: *President*, Newton M. Shaffer, M.D., of New York; *Vice-Presidents*, Drs. A. Sydney Roberts, of Philadelphia, and

E. H. Bradford, of Boston; *Secretary and Treasurer*, Dr. L. Hall Sayre, of New York.

THE Alumni Association of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of New York offer a prize of five hundred dollars, open for competition to the Alumni of the school, for the best essay upon any medical subject which may be submitted to the committee.

THE medical profession of Philadelphia gave a reception at the Hotel Bellevue last Tuesday evening to Dr. R. J. Levis, on the occasion of his retirement from active professional work.

DR. T. G. RICHARDSON, of New Orleans, sailed for Europe last Saturday, having been hastily summoned to Naples by the severe illness of a near relative.

THE Pennsylvania State Medical Society meets at Bedford on Wednesday, June 29th.

### SOCIETY PROCEEDINGS.

#### AMERICAN SURGICAL ASSOCIATION.

*Annual Meeting, Washington, D. C., May 11, 12, and 13, 1887.*

(Specially reported for THE MEDICAL NEWS.)

(Concluded from page 639.)

FRIDAY, MAY 12TH—THIRD DAY,

AFTERNOON SESSION.

DR. THOMAS J. DUNOTT offered

SOME REMARKS ON HYPERTROPHY OF THE TONGUE (LINGUA VITULI, LINGUA PROPENDULA, MACROGLOSSIA).

He stated that this affection, although rare, is mentioned by almost all surgeons of large experience. The case reported was the only one which had come under his observation.

Hypertrophy of the tongue, according to S. D. Gross, may be limited to its muscular substance, to its papillæ, or to its mucous investment, or there may be a simultaneous affection of all these structures, constituting general hypertrophy of the organ. This hypertrophy must not be confounded with tumors or fibro-cellular growths, nor with cysts which are met in the tongue. This form of hypertrophy is nothing but an overdevelopment of normal tissue, which is, of necessity, associated with prolapse, when it is in any degree; and, therefore, the name "propendula linguæ" is not inappropriate.

Most authors who have met with it consider it congenital; but he is inclined to think that, except where it is associated with other congenital imperfections, as especially with idiocy, it is rather the result of inflammatory conditions affecting the various tissues of the tongue.

The case he reported was a girl twelve years old, admitted to the Harrisburg Hospital on January 6, 1886,

with an enormously large tongue. The organ protruded between the lips for three inches. It was kept enclosed in a muslin bag. Its surface was covered with patches of exfoliated mucous membrane, from underneath which there constantly dribbled a seropurulent discharge. The mucous membrane was cracked and fissured. The circumference of the tongue was  $9\frac{3}{4}$  inches, and its greatest width  $4\frac{1}{4}$  inches. The organ was firm to the touch, almost cartilaginous in consistence. The patient could partake only of liquids. The prolapse of the tongue was of only two months' duration, and it was stated that it began without any apparent cause, there having never been previously noticed any enlargement of the member. On January 15th, measurement demonstrated that a very decided increase in size had occurred, and the patient had to be nourished to a great degree by rectal alimentation. An operation having been determined upon, the patient was anesthetized with chloroform, to which she responded readily. A needle was then passed under the ranine artery on either side, about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches from the lips. The thread was withdrawn and tied in a loop which was permitted to hang out of the angles of the mouth, the intention being to command the arteries and the stump after section. He then fully described the further steps of the operation, consisting in the drawing forward of the tongue, and its removal by the scissors and scalpel, the knife being so directed as to secure a conical stump. The operation was successful, and the patient made a good recovery. The stump protruded as far as the frenum. Articulation was tolerable.

The great danger in this operation, according to most authors, is from hemorrhage. This could be easily controlled by a rubber coil passed about the base of the tongue, with the ligature around the ranine arteries. The patient in the operation should be placed in the recumbent posture, in order to prevent the flow of blood into the trachea.

Four methods of ablation of the tongue are practised: 1, the oral of Paget; 2, the symphyseal of Syme and Sedillot; 3, the submental introduced by Regnoli, in 1838, and its subsequent modification by Nunnely, of Leeds, in 1861. These operations are, for the most part, intended for the removal of malignant disease of the tongue.

In the case reported, microscopic examination showed that the enlargement was made up for the most part of dilated lymph vessels, with increase of the connective tissue, and some striated muscular fibres.

DR. L. McLANE TIFFANY submitted photographic illustrations of cases of the same character as that reported by Dr. Dunott. The case was that of a negro five years old, the affection being congenital. The same deformity of the lower jaw was present as is usually found in these malformations, the incisor teeth projecting forward, instead of resting perpendicularly upon the bone. The operation was done simply by putting the child to sleep, drawing the tongue forward and cutting it off with Paquelin's cautery. The incision was made vertically to the long diameter of the tongue. No attempt was made to form flaps. The tissue as cut through was found to present the appearance of being composed very largely of the tissues of an unaffected normal tongue, the lymph spaces being probably filled. There was no hemorrhage at all until the ranine artery

was reached. One of these, after a single spurt, did not bleed at all; the other was closed by pinch forceps, and afterward by ligature. The patient within a week was eating solid food, and left the hospital on the twelfth day after the operation.

DR. J. FORD THOMPSON reported two cases of

#### VAGINAL HYSTERECTOMY.

He had determined to report these two cases, he said, in the hope that the discussion they elicit will settle the vexed question whether the operation is to be encouraged or condemned.

*Case 1.*—A. E., white, æt. forty-five, married seven years, had given birth to one child three years previous to the record of the case, the labor being very difficult. Malignant disease of the cervix was diagnosed by her attendant. Examination revealed great destruction of the cervix, the loss extending beyond the internal os. She had been losing a great deal of blood at each menstrual period, which was prolonged, but not attended with much pain. She had a cachectic appearance. The uterus was movable, and there did not appear to be any infiltration. She was admitted to the Garfield Hospital April 15, 1885. On the 23d, after consultation, it was decided to avoid hysterectomy, if possible, and to limit the operation to that for amputation of the cervix.

April 24th, the patient having been prepared for operation, was anesthetized, and placed in the lithotomy position. The cervix was seized and brought forward as far as practicable. The spoon was used to scrape away the softened tissue, and the scissors to sever the vaginal attachments. After cutting away the cervix with the scissors, it was attempted to use the spoon, but it was discovered that Douglas's cul-de-sac had been opened, and it was thought advisable to extirpate the entire organ. The uterus was then, without much difficulty, freed from the bladder, a silk ligature was placed about the organ, and the uterus was split into halves. Each part was then brought down, a ligature applied above it, and the stump cut away. There was no loss of blood from the ligaments, but a constant oozing from the parts severed in the first steps of the operation; this, however, was stopped with hot water. A knuckle of the intestine protruded, but was readily returned. Sutures of the peritoneum were not used. The patient at the close of the operation was very weak, and complained of pain.

April 25th, 11 A.M., pulse 140, and feeble; temperature 103°. The vaginal tampon was removed, and the vagina irrigated. She died twenty-four hours after the operation.

*Case 2.*—Mrs. M. H., white, æt. fifty-five, admitted to the Garfield Hospital February 26, 1887, married at nineteen, had three children. The menopause passed at fifty-one. Hemorrhage had been noticed for some time. First saw her in consultation shortly before admission to the hospital. Her general condition was good, but she was very much reduced in flesh and cachectic in appearance. Advanced laceration of the cervix was recognized upon examination, especially of the posterior lip. The malignant disease had extended backward, and had encroached upon the posterior cul-de-sac. The uterus was next drawn down, when the disease was found to extend along the cervical canal to the internal os, and probably beyond, but no evidence was present of its having extended beyond the uterine

walls. Bleeding during the examination was free. A month later he again saw her, in consultation, and it was decided that she should go to the Garfield Hospital.

February 28th, at 11 A.M., she was etherized. Antiseptic precautions were employed; she was placed in the lithotomy position, and no speculum was used. The vaginal wall was separated from the uterus all around; the attachments to the bladder in front were divided, the uterus drawn down through the opening, and dissected from its other attachments. She made a fair recovery.

He then compared the operation thus made with laparo-hysterectomy, which, he said, has been almost entirely abandoned because of its great mortality. The first operation of hysterectomy was performed by Langenbeck in 1813. It was occasionally resorted to by operators afterward; in 1830 a number of successes were recorded, but fatal cases again occurred, and it was abandoned. From the history, however, he did not think its fatality was sufficient to deter the surgeon from resorting to it. Certain accidents are, of course, liable to occur, as injury to the bladder, peritonitis, etc. There are at least six methods which are used at the present time, the relative advantages and disadvantages of which he briefly discussed. With reference to the use of peritoneal sutures, he was, on general principles, in favor of them, and was aware of no reasonable objection to their use. He would certainly favor the partial closing of the vaginal vault by bringing the edges together.

Are the dangers of the operation so great as to cause us to reject it, or to cause us to hesitate to perform it in carcinomatous disease? Although its history dates far back, it is still a modern operation, and it is too soon to decide its merits or demerits as a therapeutical method. The statistics of the immediate results are becoming more and more favorable, and, in the hands of skilled operators, it will soon lose its terrors, and be considered as rather easy of execution. Until recently, the mortality of the operation was about thirty per cent., but lately some authors have reduced it to a little more than twenty per cent. There is no doubt a disease of the cervix called cancer, or papilloma of the cervix, which may be cured by a partial operation, and this may lead to error in some instance. There is no reason that we should except from total extirpation the uterus, when we are insisting upon its adoption in all other organs where it is possible for malignant disease.

DR. T. R. VARICK thought the time had not yet arrived to make positive statements with reference to the operation, and cautioned against placing too implicit reliance upon the statistics which have been published.

DR. T. F. PREWITT thought the conclusions of Dr. Thompson in the main correct. He very readily agreed with him that extirpation is the better operation for malignant disease; but went further, and said that upon the earliest appearance of epithelioma of the cervix there should be total extirpation of the organ, for he thought this would be the better cure, the safer course. We all know how prone these carcinomatous diseases are to return, and that all operations that have been made heretofore by the supra-vaginal operation, the curette, the cautery, etc., have failed. It has been claimed by some that they have operated fifteen years

ago, and that there has been no return, but he suspected that the cases were not carcinomatous. We know that we derive great encouragement by doing a thorough operation for the disease in other localities. Epithelioma of the lip frequently shows no disposition to return; but, if it goes on for years, there is a period after which it will return in spite of any cutting we can do. He had a case some months ago that is a good illustration of the advantages of a thorough operation. A woman of fifty had evidences of malignant disease for some time, offensive and bloody discharge, etc., while she was becoming emaciated and her health impaired. An epitheliomatous growth was found which extended laterally. The uterus was movable, and the surrounding tissues were apparently not involved. The only course that apparently would give her any possible chance for prolonged life was hysterectomy. This was done and the patient recovered. He also narrated a case in which, in attempting to make this operation, he caused a rupture of the bladder, the tissues being so friable that any attempt at traction on them resulted in a tearing, and the operation had to be abandoned, and the opening in the bladder closed. The patient did well afterward, living for several months at least.

DR. E. H. GREGORY had always been taught that the grandeur of surgery was to save every part possible, and he would no more think of removing the entire uterus for an epithelioma of the cervix than he would think of removing the entire lip for an epithelioma of that region. We know that epithelioma and carcinoma are entirely different in their behavior; we know that epithelioma is, of all malignant growths, the least malignant. He would not think of removing the entire lower jaw for a malignant growth of one side of the jaw. He did not believe that the fact that a part of an organ is diseased is a warrant for the extirpation of the whole. He could narrate as many successes after the removal of part of an organ where the patients had lived for years afterward, and are alive to-day, as could be related after total extirpation. He called attention to the fact that in the case of Dr. Prewitt, where the operation could not be completed, the patient may be living yet, and still the disease was left there which it was proposed to remove; and the fact that the patient from whom Dr. Prewitt removed the entire organ is still alive is counterbalanced by the fact that the patient from whom he failed to remove the disease is also alive.

DR. A. R. KINLOCH said that the only way to decide with regard to an operation is from the statistics of successes. If the last speaker can prove that he can cut far and wide of an epithelioma of the cervix, without extirpating the uterus, then he was with him. If he can prove that in cases where he extirpated the uterus he did not save the life of the patient or prolong it, then he is right in sticking to his old rules, as he calls them, and not try new ones; but if the modern surgeon can show that life has been prolonged by it, then he would ask him not to condemn the teachings of what he calls modern surgery.

DR. GREGORY stated that when he assumed what he had in regard to the uterus, he did so in all sincerity, for he was absolutely certain as to his conclusions. We cannot assume with as much certainty that the infiltration of the uterus is limited, as we can of any other organ of the body. Again, we know that in attempting



to remove thoroughly all traces of cancer of the mamma, we remove not only the entire breast, but go up into the axilla and dissect it out. Now, if we were to apply to the uterus the rules that we apply elsewhere, we would remove the entire contents of the pelvic cavity. The man who would cut "far and wide" of this organ would have no limit but that of the wall of the pelvis.

DR. C. B. NANCREDE thought the question of the anatomy of the uterus and of the lymphatics and blood-vessels of the vagina could not be entered into here, but that it had an immense bearing upon the question which had been raised. We do not cut into the axilla unless it is involved. Quite a number of patients can be shown in Philadelphia in whom malignant disease extended to the axilla, and where the patients have lived from ten to fifteen years after its removal. He held firmly to the belief that carcinoma is curable if operation is performed early enough and freely enough. There is a pathological law which applies to this, namely, that if the whole of an organ that is afflicted with carcinoma is not removed, there is no evidence that the disease will not return, but there is the almost certainty that it will return. If the lymphatics are not involved, there is the almost certainty that the disease will not return after removal.

DR. T. G. RICHARDSON then read a paper on

#### THE TREATMENT OF ANEURISMS,

based upon two cases which had come under his observation, one an aneurism of the left subclavian, the other affecting the femoral artery.

In regard to the aneurism of the left subclavian he expressed regret at his not being able to alter the uniformly fatal termination of the disease. His patient, an Irishman, forty-five years of age, had for two years suffered from pain in the left shoulder, and loss of power in his left arm. A few months before he came under his care, he had discovered a pulsating tumor protruding above the collar-bone. The tumor was about the size of a hen's egg, but flattened posteriorly and crowded down behind the clavicle. The patient's sufferings had been such that he had been kept under the influence of chloral and opium. When he first came under observation, medical treatment was tried; the patient was confined to bed, on a spare diet, and the heart's action reduced by veratrum viride, together with doses of the iodide of potassium. No diminution in the size of the tumor having taken place at the end of a week, direct compression was attempted by a compress and an ordinary rubber band; but this became almost intolerable, and was substituted by a rubber band passing around the chest, with a belt over the shoulder. The apparatus was all that could be desired, and the patient carried out his part of the treatment fully, but at the end of a month all that could be said was that it had slightly retarded the progress of the growth. Nineteen pins, measuring one and a quarter inches in length, were passed through the anterior wall of the tumor, care being taken not to injure the adjacent nerves and bloodvessels. Several pins disappeared from view into the skin, in consequence of the swelling that ensued. The tumor appeared to be getting harder, but it became apparent that it was due to inflammation of the skin and subcutaneous tissues, while the tumor was growing rapidly. He decided upon the ligation of the

axillary artery, and the injection of the perchloride of iron. The ligation was carefully done, and a solution of the perchloride of iron (1 : 20, in water) was injected into the centre of the tumor. No coagulation occurred, and a solution of double the strength was used. Secondary hemorrhage occurred, and death quickly followed. Upon necropsy, the tumor was found to be about the size of a fist, and involving about three-fourths of the axillary artery, having caused almost complete occlusion of the left subclavian vein. A fairly thick layer of fibrin lined the interior, corresponding to where the pins had been. The walls of the rest of the tumor were very thin. The walls of the artery on the proximal side were very soft. Another aneurism of the right subclavian, involving the innominate, was also found.

The second patient was a shoemaker, fifty-five years of age, who was admitted into the hospital for a painful swelling of the left thigh. The tumor, an aneurism of the femoral artery, was about the size of a goose's egg, irregularly flattened. None of the characteristic signs of aneurism were wanting. It was supposed to possess thin walls. The man looked anæmic and delicate. He had had syphilis about nine years before. The cause of the disease was supposed to be the irritation caused by hammering leather on an iron placed on his thigh. The tumor appeared to be inflamed by the manipulation. To overcome this, Dr. Richardson suspended the limb flexed at right angles at the hip and knee. He found on the first day an improvement in the condition of the tumor, and a few days later, that coagulation had occurred. A week later he was discharged, cured, and a few months after only a small nodule could be felt at the site of the tumor.

As this is probably the first case of femoral aneurism cured by this method, he desired to call attention to the fact that no pressure was exerted on the tumor, but that the only treatment was flexion, and suspension of the limb, especially the latter. He thought that gravity had a great deal to do with effecting the cure.

DR. DAVID PRINCE read a paper on

#### WOUNDS: THEIR ASEPTIC AND ANTISEPTIC MANAGEMENT.

The aseptic treatment, he said, consisted in (1) diminishing the amount of floating material in the air by means of filtration through cotton, for wounds in the process of formation. (2) By the subsequent seclusion of the same floating material by investments that are proof against penetration by the dust floating in the atmosphere. The antiseptic consisted in the employment of agents which are unfriendly or destructive to minute organisms, in such dilution as not to be injurious to the wound itself. Under this head are the dry, the wet antiseptic dressing, and drainage. He then demonstrated his favorite plan for filtering the atmosphere.

DR. JAMES McCANN, of Pittsburg, then reported a successful case of

#### SPLENECTOMY,

which will appear in full in an early number of THE MEDICAL NEWS.

Votes of thanks were extended to the President for his efficient manner of conducting the meetings of the Association; to the Surgeon-General, for the use of the

Library of the Museum Building as a place of meeting; and to the Cosmos Club, of Washington, for their proffered hospitalities.

The Association then adjourned, subject to the call of the President.

### THE AMERICAN LARYNGOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION.

*Ninth Annual Congress,  
held in New York, May 26, 27, and 28, 1887.*

(Concluded from page 635.)

SATURDAY, MAY 28TH—MORNING SESSION.

DR. S. W. LANGMAID read a paper on the

#### CONSTITUTIONAL CAUSES OF THROAT AFFECTIONS.

He suggested that the most interesting lesson to be drawn from the observation of the lesions in the throat trouble, is that there is some underlying cause which may be external or intrinsic. Our attention has been directed too much to the local condition, and to atmospheric influences. Why atmospheric conditions are active at one time and not at another, is a matter worthy of consideration. One of the most intractable diseases which we have to treat is chronic recurring coryza. Sometimes destruction of the mucous membrane of the nose is sufficient, but, as a rule, the treatment must take in all the circumstances of the life of the sufferer. A sense of a lump in the throat, so often complained of, is often an indication of an overloaded colon, and more good is done by a dose of castor oil than by local treatment.

The so-called clergyman's sore throat, or follicular laryngitis, has its origin, not in the necessary use of the throat, but in the sedentary life which, with errors in diet and other conditions, plays an important part. Throat trouble is sometimes a rheumatic or gouty manifestation, and treatment has to be directed to this condition. Local treatment in many throat troubles is of the nature of repair; constitutional and hygienic treatment must be in the direction of a renewal of the normal processes. Swelling and congestion of the mucous membrane, hypertrophy of the tonsil, elongation of the uvula, etc., must be regarded as symptoms, and the symptoms will not be banished unless the underlying constitutional abnormality is removed.

DR. GLASGOW agreed with the author that many of these local conditions are symptomatic. Many of them are due to some derangement of the digestive apparatus.

DR. SOLIS COHEN said, with reference to rheumatic sore throat, that he had doubts as to the correctness of this term. He had found symptoms closely like those of this affection follow the application of the galvano-cautery to the pharynx and tonsils. Patients often suffer pain in the trapezius muscle from an application of the cautery to the tonsil. He had found the use of guaiac as serviceable here as where the trouble was due to exposure to cold. Whether this is nervous or not, he could not say. He treats his patients constitutionally, using purgatives two or three times a week. There is one form of pharyngitis in adolescents which he had considered to be due to over-feeding.

DR. DELAVAN thought that in this country we pay

too little attention to the hygienic surroundings which are employed at the various spas abroad. This method of treatment is very beneficial in cases of interference with the portal circulation and in the gouty diathesis. He had found the salicylates of great service in some of these cases of throat trouble. Habitual constipation usually accompanies chronic disease of the pharynx. He had used in these cases the official pill of iron and aloes, directing that one be taken at night.

DR. MORRIS J. ASCH then reported

#### A CASE OF STENOSIS OF THE LARYNX TREATED BY DIVULSION AND SYSTEMATIC DILATATION.

Miss K. up to the age of twenty-seven years enjoyed good health. She then had some pulmonary trouble, the exact nature of which could not be ascertained. In 1884 she had some wheezing in breathing with slight cough. These symptoms increased in intensity gradually, and in May, 1885, the patient came under the observation of the author. There was at this time great dyspnoea which was increased by lying down. Examination of the throat showed no abnormality in the larynx or above the cords. Below the cords there were two white swellings united by a membrane posteriorly.

The opening of the larynx was diminished to one-third of the normal size. The membrane was cut and divulsion performed. This caused great improvement. Later, metallic sounds were used daily and the forceps once a week. She grew much better and ceased attending. In September she again returned, with the difficulty of the breathing as great as before. This was the result of acute inflammation of the larynx. Under the use of steam and cold compresses the swelling subsided. O'Dwyer's tubes were tried, but they at once produced spasm and were coughed out. Schröder's hard-rubber tubes were then used and within three months the cure was perfect. All the symptoms have now disappeared. There was no history of syphilis and no history of previous inflammation. The trouble was evidently the result of subcardial hypertrophic laryngitis.

DR. SOLIS COHEN said that his experience in stenosis of the larynx had been limited. In one case, reported twenty years ago, he removed a morbid growth by thyrotomy after it had been destroyed by the internal use of the galvano-cautery, which was probably the first use of the galvano-cautery for this purpose in the United States. Preliminary tracheotomy had been performed ten days previously. The operation was followed by adhesion of the vocal cord to the tissue of the opposite side. He then devised an instrument to cut this adhesion. He thought better to perform tracheotomy so as to have nothing to interfere with the breathing and then pursue the most active measures for the relief of the stenosis. When the operation is performed with antiseptic precautions, the tracheotomy wound heals up in a very short time. He thought that the danger from the operation is less than the risk of injury from the other methods of treatment.

DR. E. C. MORGAN had recently under treatment a case of laryngeal stenosis. During a period of eight or ten months he was enabled to control this by the administration of iodide of potassium and by the local applications of iodo-glycerine to the larynx. Finally, the disease advanced so far that on several occasions

he advised tracheotomy to be followed by dilatation. The patient postponed the operation a number of times, although warned of his danger. He had at times suffocative spells at night and finally succumbed to one of these spasmodic attacks. The speaker thought that if tracheotomy had been allowed and dilatation performed the man would have been alive to-day.

DR. DELAVAN thought that the various forms of dilators used in these cases are likely to be replaced by O'Dwyer's tubes. This method has a most promising future before it. The tube can be left in for a length of time and respiration not interfered with.

DR. LANGMAID reported a case of

#### FOREIGN BODY IN THE LARYNX.

The patient came under observation three months after swallowing a pin about two inches in length. The pin had lodged in the throat, and immediately after the accident an unsuccessful effort had been made to remove it with the bristle probang. At the time that she came under his notice, there were ulcerations of the larynx which were relieved by treatment. Two years later the patient again presented herself, and an examination showed the pin, which had emerged from the ventricular band with the head down. It was with some difficulty removed.

DR. SOLIS COHEN stated that in several instances he had seen on examining the pharynx, what appeared to be the belly of a muscle above the mouth of the Eustachian tube, and that from this there extended to the fornix of the pharynx what looked like a tendon. This he had seen on both sides. He asked whether or not any of the other members had observed the same appearance.

DR. RUFUS P. LINCOLN, of New York, reported a case of

#### RECURRENT NASO-PHARYNGEAL TUMOR CURED BY ELECTROLYSIS.

The patient presented himself in April, 1886. A growth had been removed from the posterior nares by another physician one year previously. It returned, and the operation was repeated six months later. When the patient came under observation he was unable to breathe through the left nostril. On examination, a large growth was found occupying the left half of the posterior nares, and it was decided to treat this by electrolysis. On June 3d, two needles connected with the negative pole of the battery were introduced through the anterior nares into the growth, while the positive pole terminated in two large sponge electrodes, which were applied to the front and back of the chest. In all, sixteen applications were made at intervals of three or four days. This caused an entire disappearance of the growth. The immediate effect of the electrolysis was to cause distention and a change in the color of the growth, but these passed off in the course of twenty-four hours. There is, up to the present time, no evidence of the return of the growth.

DR. HOOPER said that in October, 1881, a youth presented himself with a tumor extending from the tip of the right nostril into the naso-pharyngeal cavity. There had been a great deal of hemorrhage and the patient was in a bad condition. He was sent into the hospital and operated on by Dr. J. C. Warren, with the galvano-

cautery snare, and the whole mass removed in one piece. From that time to this the patient has been constantly under treatment. The tumor had been growing and from time to time he had snared it off. The tumor has been pronounced to be a most malignant form of myxo-sarcoma, but the general health is excellent. He proposed next to try the effect of electrolysis.

DR. DELAVAN said that during the past fifteen years he had seen a number of these patients operated upon, and recalled many cases in which the result was disastrous. Although there had been successful cases, none had come under his observation. The great point is in the early diagnosis. If taken in time, even if it cannot be cured, it can, as a rule, be kept in check. After the age of twenty-five years, it has been stated that these tumors have a tendency to stop growing, so that if kept in check until this age, they may entirely disappear. It seemed to him that the galvano-cautery exercises a modifying influence on the tissues which remain, which cannot be caused by the knife.

DR. W. C. JARVIS, of New York, reported

#### TWO UNIQUE CASES OF CONGENITAL OCCLUSION OF THE ANTERIOR NARES.

Complete congenital occlusion of the anterior nares is rare, and the author had been unable to discover any cases in searching the literature of the subject. The first case was a man eighteen years of age, with complete closure of both nostrils. Inspection showed on each side within the anterior nares, a cup-shaped depression of white glistening membrane. On the left side a small hole was discovered. The operation was performed in April, 1886. The burrs devised by the speaker, connected with an engine, were used to cut through the cartilaginous occlusion. This was accomplished in a few minutes; the air passed freely through the nostril. At a subsequent operation the right nostril was opened. In April, 1887, the opening in the right nostril had become contracted and had to be reopened. In a second case in which the anterior nostrils were occluded by a osseous formation, the operation was performed in the same manner as in the previous case, with successful result.

#### AFTERNOON SESSION.

DR. ALEXANDER W. MAC COY, of Philadelphia, related

#### A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF SOME OF THE METHODS OF TREATMENT BEST ADAPTED TO THE RELIEF OF THE POSTERIOR NARES.

He confined his remarks to occlusion due to enlargement of the soft parts. He had never seen occlusion of the posterior nares due to osseous growth. He referred to the methods used in the treatment of occlusion of the posterior nares, and highly recommended the use of chromic acid fused on the end of a probe, the end of which is covered with a tube, which is withdrawn when the probe has reached the desired position. This is followed by the use of an antagonistic solution. He had found this better than the use of the galvano-cautery. Since using cocaine, he had not been able to use the cold wire snare in these cases on account of the contraction caused by the drug. He had also found difficulty in using the needles recommended by Dr.



Jarvis. The chief object of the paper was to call attention to the superiority of chromic acid, used in this way, over the other methods of treatment which had been recommended. He did not recommend the use of the acid either in crystal or in solution, for then it was not easy to limit the application to the desired point.

DR. JARVIS stated that he never used cocaine as a preliminary measure where he intended to remove posterior hypertrophies. He first includes the hypertrophies in the loop and draws the wire home and then applies the cocaine spray. The tissue included in the loop can not be affected by the contraction produced by the drug. We thus have the advantages of the anæsthetic without its disadvantages. It has been pretty generally recognized that chromic acid has many disadvantages. It may produce serious symptoms. The snare will accomplish in a few minutes what chromic acid requires considerable time to do.

DR. RICE agreed in the main with what the author of the paper had said. The turbinate bodies are difficult to penetrate with the needles, and there are many cases in which it is difficult to apply the loop posteriorly. He had not found any special disadvantages in the use of chromic acid.

DR. DELAVAN, of New York, formerly used chromic acid, but then gave it up. Lately he had again tested it, selecting for this purpose five patients, three of whom were physicians. He added enough water to the crystals to make them deliquesce, and then applied it with a cotton wrapped probe, the excess of acid having been removed. He had also used it by fusing it on a probe. In all these cases there was more reaction than followed the use of the cautery or the snare, and all the patients preferred the cautery to the chromic acid.

DR. DEBLOIS exhibited a plaster splint which he had employed with advantage in a case of

#### FRACTURE OF THE NOSE.

The splint consisted simply of a plaster cast, into which a piece of roller bandage had been incorporated. This was applied over the nose and held in position by the strips of bandage.

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION.

The report of the Committee on the Congress of American Physicians and Surgeons presented its report, embracing the conclusions of the Conference Committee, which were adopted.

The following were elected

#### OFFICERS FOR THE ENSUING YEAR:

*President.*—Dr. R. P. Lincoln, of New York.

*Vice-Presidents.*—Drs. J. N. Mackenzie, of Baltimore, and S. W. Langmaid, of Boston.

*Secretary and Treasurer.*—Dr. D. Bryson Delavan, of New York.

*Librarian.*—Dr. T. R. French, of Brooklyn.

*Council.*—Drs. Frank Donaldson, of Baltimore; J. Solis Cohen, of Philadelphia; F. H. Hooper, of Boston; and E. C. Morgan, of Washington.

The following were elected *Corresponding Fellows*: Dr. A. Gougenheim, of Paris; and S. Moure, of Bordeaux.

Dr. A. Jacobi, of New York, was elected *Honorary Fellow*.

The Association then adjourned.

## NEWS ITEMS.

**ANÆSTHESIA IN HEART DISEASE.**—A special meeting of the Philadelphia County Medical Society was held on June 15th to receive the report of a Committee appointed, at the request of Dr. H. F. Formad, to inquire into certain testimony given by him at a coroner's inquest; which testimony, he stated, had been imperfectly reported, giving rise to a false impression in the public mind. The opinion attributed to Dr. Formad was "that ether should not be administered to persons suffering with heart disease." It is true that he did so state, but the important omission of the words additionally used by him, "without due precaution and proper care both during the administration of the drug and after its withdrawal," materially altered the import of his testimony as reported.

That Dr. Formad qualified his testimony by the use of the language quoted, was substantiated by the statement of the Coroner and the evidence of the records of the Coroner's office.

In view of these facts the Committee reported the following resolutions, which were unanimously adopted:

*Resolved*, That in the opinion of the Philadelphia County Medical Society, the testimony of the Coroner's physician, Dr. H. F. Formad, "that ether should not be administered to patients with heart disease, without due precaution and proper care both during the administration of the drug and after its withdrawal" is correct and proper; and the same caution should be observed in any other case.

*And whereas*, A false impression may have been given to the public by the imperfect reports of Dr. Formad's testimony published in the daily papers, and the medical profession placed in a false and dangerous position, therefore be it further

*Resolved*, That, in the opinion of this Society, the administration of ether is not only necessary and proper when pain is to be inflicted upon patients with cardiac lesions, but lessens the dangers incident to operation; provided that due care be taken during the administration of the anæsthetic, and proper regard be paid to its after-effects.

**PHARMACY AT CORNELL UNIVERSITY.**—A School of Pharmacy is to be opened in connection with Cornell University during the coming Fall. Women and men are to be admitted.

**THE TWELFTH MEETING OF THE SOCIETY OF NEUROLOGISTS AND ALIENISTS OF SOUTHWESTERN GERMANY** was held on June 11th and 12th at Strassburg. Among the papers of interest read was one on the Use of Hyoscin in Nervous Diseases, by Erb, of Heidelberg, and Demonstrations of Nervous Diseases, by Kussmaul, of Strassburg.

**ILLNESS OF PROFESSOR BILLROTH.**—As the name of the great Vienna surgeon is almost as much a household word among his English-speaking brethren as it is

in Germany, a few details respecting the indisposition which recently threatened to cut short his brilliant career cannot fail to be interesting to our readers. He had been confined to bed for some time by a sharp attack of bronchitis, when acute pneumonia supervened. These conditions, combined with fatty degeneration of the heart, brought about a state of alarming prostration, from which it was for some time thought impossible that he could rally. His celebrated colleagues, Von Bamberger and Nothnagel, were in constant attendance, and it is needless to say that everything was done for his relief that the most advanced science could suggest. Billroth appears to have derived most benefit from inhalations of pure oxygen, which were prepared for him every day by Professor Ludwig. Under this treatment the dyspnoea diminished, the pulse became stronger, and consciousness gradually returned. The illustrious patient is now fully convalescent, and will in a week or two be able to go to the fine country house at St. Gilgenfer belonging to his wife. It is seldom that the illness of a member of our fraternity has excited such universal interest and sympathy in all ranks of society. The varying phases of the disease were chronicled in the daily press, as if he had been a crowned head or a statesman of the first rank; and telegraphic messages of inquiry as to his condition were continually being received from royal and other exalted personages by those in charge of the case. It is particularly pleasant to record that the Imperial-Royal Society of Physicians, of Vienna, has sent Billroth a formal congratulation on his recovery.—*British Medical Journal*, June 11, 1887.

**THE ACCIDENT TO THE KING OF THE COWBOYS.**—The case of the celebrated cowboy, Buck Taylor, who met with an accident at Buffalo Bill's "Wild West" last week, is not without surgical interest. The peculiar character of the injury is explained by the circumstances under which it was inflicted. He was engaged in the quadrille on horseback, and was passing between two horses, when one of them, ridden by a "Western girl," swerved, and left little space for his horse to pass on. He attempted, however, to go forward, when the swerving horse swung itself with great force against his right thigh, and he felt the bone snap as he received the blow. Buck Taylor then tried to rest the injured limb along the back of the horse, but found at once that he had lost all control over the muscles of the thigh; so he threw his arm round the horse's neck, and looked out for the right moment to slip as comfortably as possible on the tan. Unfortunately, he could not control himself as he slid off, but fell on his back and sprained the muscles of his neck. Mr. Maitland Coffin was present, and improvised a splint for the injured thigh without disturbing the patient's clothes. Buck Taylor was removed in an ambulance to the West London Hospital, and admitted into Mr. Keetley's accident-ward. A simple and perfectly transverse fracture of the right thigh-bone was discovered, at the junction of the upper with the middle third of the shaft. The shortening hardly amounted to half an inch, owing, probably, to the direct violence which had broken the bone, without the aid of muscular action, and also to the transverse character of the fracture. This trifling amount of shortening is observed after an artificial transverse fracture as produced in Macewen's opera-

tion. The chief point of interest, however, in this case is the production of the fracture by direct force applied to the outer aspect of the thigh, not apparently high in degree, and without injury to the soft parts. A few similar cases have been recorded. The limb was placed in a long splint, with extension by a weight and pulley, and a kettle-holder splint was fitted to the anterior aspect of the thigh. Buck Taylor is quite the hero of the hour, and receives daily a large number of visitors, including many persons of high social position and culture, who take an interest in an unsophisticated child of nature.—*British Medical Journal*, June 11, 1887.

**A SANITARIUM FOR THE PHTHISICAL.**—FRIEDMANN has established at Berka, 800 feet above sea level, a small sanitarium accommodating ten patients, where the general treatment of phthisis, as recommended by Deitweiler at the recent German Congress, will be carried out.

**PROFESSOR SENATOR** has succeeded Professor Henoch in the charge of the clinic for children's diseases at Berlin; Professor Henoch being obliged to retire on account of ill health.

**OFFICIAL LIST OF CHANGES IN THE STATIONS AND DUTIES OF OFFICERS SERVING IN THE MEDICAL DEPARTMENT U. S. ARMY, FROM JUNE 14 TO JUNE 20, 1887.**

HALL, JOHN D., *Captain and Assistant Surgeon*.—Leave of absence extended one month.—*S. O. 136, A. G. O.*, June 14, 1887.

BORDEN, W. C., *First Lieutenant and Assistant Surgeon*.—Granted leave of absence for one month.—*S. O. 138, A. G. O.*, June 16, 1887.

**OFFICIAL LIST OF CHANGES IN THE MEDICAL CORPS OF THE U. S. NAVY FOR THE WEEK ENDING JUNE 18, 1887.**

WALTON, THOMAS C., *Surgeon*.—Ordered, June 15, for examination preliminary to promotion as Medical Inspector.

PRICE, A. F., *Surgeon*.—Detached from special duty, Annapolis, Maryland, proceed home and wait orders.

FLINT, JAMES M., *Surgeon*.—Detached from the "Albatross," and ordered to the Smithsonian Institution.

WILLSON, W. G. G., *Passed Assistant Surgeon*.—Ordered to the Receiving Ship "Independence," Mare Island, Cal.

**OFFICIAL LIST OF CHANGES OF STATIONS AND DUTIES OF MEDICAL OFFICERS OF THE U. S. MARINE HOSPITAL SERVICE, FOR THE TWO WEEKS ENDING JUNE 18, 1887.**

BRATTON, W. D., *Assistant Surgeon*.—To proceed to Seattle, W. T., on special duty, June 8, 1887. When relieved, to rejoin station at San Francisco, Cal., June 11, 1887.

WATKINS, R. B., *Assistant Surgeon*.—Granted leave of absence for thirty days, June 8, 1887.

HEATH, F. C., *Assistant Surgeon*.—To proceed to Marine Hospital, Detroit, Mich., for temporary duty, June 17, 1887.

**THE MEDICAL NEWS** will be pleased to receive early intelligence of local events of general medical interest, or of matters which it is desirable to bring to the notice of the profession.

Local papers containing reports or news items should be marked. Letters, whether written for publication or private information, must be authenticated by the names and addresses of their writers—of course not necessarily for publication.

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# INDEX.

- ABBE**, treatment of aneurisms, 397  
**Abbott**, use of blood serum in bacteriology, 207  
**Abdomen**, penetrating wounds of, laparotomy for, 581  
     pistolshot wounds of, laparotomy for, 582  
         Keen, 513  
         Packard, 339  
**Abortifacient**, the curette as an, 72  
**Abortion**, incomplete, treatment of, 409  
**Abscess**, cerebral, 272  
     pulmonary, pneumotomy in, 266  
**Abscesses**, cold, treatment of, 109  
     psaos, how to evacuate, 547  
**A.-C.-E.** mixture, accidents accompanying use of, Sharp, 257  
     accident with, Packard, 38  
**Acid**, carbolic, in granular ophthalmia, 373  
     crystalline, in urine, Marshall, 35  
     picric, in fungous endometritis, 659  
     in phthisis, 655  
**Acne**, treatment of, 489, 520  
**Actinomyces hominis**, 102  
**Adams**, Johnson's quantitative glucose test, 515  
**Address**, commemorative, Mitchell, 29  
**Adolescents**, tonsillitis in, 44  
**Adulterant**, a new, for cod-liver oil, 375  
**Advertisements**, quack, 297  
**Æthoxy-caffeine**, 126  
**Affections**, intestinal, pomegranate root in, 11  
**After-pains**, a prescription for, 548  
**Agaric**, 109, 126, 335, 54  
**Agnew**, excision of larynx and pharynx, 401  
     medico-legal aspects of cranial and heart wounds, 561  
     nephrolithotomy, 682  
     nephrorrhaphy and nephrectomy, 116  
**Ainhum**, 54  
**Air**, mid-Atlantic, purity of, 42  
**Air-passages**, upper, value of present method of treating, 500  
**Albuminuria**, action of drugs in, 100  
     forms of, not dangerous to life, 71  
**Albumose-fever**, Ott and Collmar, 209  
**Alcohol**, mortality among habitual users of, 210  
**Alöin**, 126  
**Amenorrhœa**, potassium permanganate in, 125  
**Ammonia**, picrate of, in malarial disease, 490  
**Ammonium picronitricum**, 464  
**Anæmia**, cerebral, treatment of, 182  
**Anæsthesia** in heart disease, 717  
     mixed, 659  
**Anæsthetic**, a new local, 12, 157  
     selection of ether or chloroform as an, 440  
**Anæsthetics**, use of, during parturition, Barker, 174  
**Analgesic**, antipyrin as an, 654  
**Aneurism**, abdominal, cure of, 264  
     arterio-venous, 41  
     cirroid, 270  
     innominate, 190, 414  
**Aneurisms**, treatment of, 714  
     Abbe, 397  
**Ankle-joint**, excision of, 190  
     resection of, 13  
**Antifebrin**, 159, 265  
**Antifebrin**, comparative action of, and antipyrin, 574  
**Anti-neuralgic pill**, 182  
**Antipyretics**, value of, 658  
**Antipyrin**, 335, 347  
     as an analgesic, 604, 654  
     comparative action of, and antifebrin, 574  
     in hemicrania, 266  
     in phthisis, 294  
     in typhoid fever, 662  
     in whooping-cough, 624  
**Antisepsis** for the newborn, 654  
     intestinal, 657  
     surgical, in the Bulgarian War, 98  
**Antiseptic?** is iodoform an, 292  
**Antiseptic injections**, formulæ for, 240  
**Antithermin**, 531  
**Aorta**, abdominal, aneurism of, 693  
**Aphasia**, 136  
**Apparatus**, rubber, preservation of, 264  
**Appendages**, the uterine, 190  
**Appendix vermiformis**, perforation of, 19, 78  
**Arlt**, Prof., death of, 380  
**Armstrong**, recovery from overdose of mercuric chloride, 67  
**Army**, medical department of the, 184, 251  
**Arsenic** in diabetes, 517  
**Artery**, external carotid, ligature of, Bryant, 542  
     Wyeth, 312  
     innominate, aneurism of, 190  
     middle meningeal, trephining for hemorrhage from, 345  
**Aseptol**, 180  
**Asphyxia** from sewer gas, 616  
**Asthma**, treatment of, 612, 408  
**Astragalus**, fracture and dislocation of the, 584  
**Ataxia**, spastic, 250  
**Atmosphere**, the microorganisms of the, 447  
     vitiation of, by gas and kerosene stoves, 475  
**Atony**, gastro-intestinal, treatment of, 407  
**Atrophy**, progressive muscular, 22  
**Atropine** in hæmoptysis, 293  
**BACILLI**, tubercle, diagnostic value of, in sputa, 556  
     in striped muscle, 320  
     new method of cultivating, 348  
**Bacillus**, the typhoid, 158  
**Bacon**, sea-bathing a cause of ear disease, 122  
**Bacteria** in ice, 465  
**Bacteriological notes**, Sternberg, 231, 287, 372, 482  
**Bacteriology**, a journal of, 102  
     use of blood serum in, Abbott, 207  
**Balance**, the induction, use of, 192  
**Baldness**, incipient, treatment of, 42  
**Bandage**, gypsum, apparatus for preparing, 249  
**Bandl**, Prof. Ludwig, death of, 130  
**Barker**, use of anæsthetics during parturition, 174  
**Bartholow**, Medical Electricity, review of, 553  
     treatment of diseases of the heart, 449  
**Béclard**, M., death of, 244  
**Beer**, influence of, upon salivary and gastric digestion, Hare, 649  
**Beri-beri**, 12, 54  
**Bernays**, gastrotomy, 1  
**Bidwell**, lead poisoning from unusual source, 87  
**Birdsall**, brain surgery, 421  
**Birth marks** as evidence, 213  
**Birth-rate**, decreasing, of Ireland, 531  
**Bismuth**, subiodide of, in treatment of wounds, 487  
**Bladder**, absorption from mucous membrane of, 266  
     effect of overstrain of, 608  
     rupture of, 159, 321, 435, 495  
     treatment of exstrophy of, 397  
     tuberculous disease of, 22  
     tumors of, 11  
**Blennorrhœa**, treatment of, 180, 182, 602  
**Blood**, extravasation of, within cranium, operation for, 410  
     in malarial fever, Councilman, 59  
     microorganisms in the, 180  
     serum, preparation of, 307  
**Body**, human, preservation of, after death, 308  
**Boils**, abortive treatment of, 626  
     an epidemic of, 375  
**Bolton**, mode of preparing potatoes for bacterial cultures, 318  
**Bones**, permanent suture of, 279  
**Bontecou**, effects of water-gas on man, 118  
**Books**, school, best type and colors for, 503  
**Bracken**, administration of gaseous enemas simplified, 514  
**Brain**, cyst of, 472  
     diagnosis of disease of the, 546  
     injury in forceps delivery, 74  
     removal of sarcomatous tumor from the, 273  
     surgery, Birdsall and Weir, 421  
**Bright's disease**, beverage for use in, 68  
**Bromide eruption**, remarkable, 221  
**Bronchitis**, treatment of, 210, 293  
**Bronchus**, steel pin impacted in, Wharton, 156  
**Bruen**, primary sarcoma of anterior mediastinum, 179  
     pyelonephritis, 288  
     treatment of phthisis by gaseous enemas, 368  
**Bryant**, ligature of external carotid artery, 542  
     Operative Surgery, review of, 440  
**Burnett**, black cataract, 113  
**Bursa**, subhyoid, extirpation of a, 274  
**CABS**, disinfection of, 103  
**Cæcum**, hernia of, 321  
**Cæsarean section**, 659, 683  
**Caffeine**, use of, as a heart tonic, 549  
**Calculi**, vesical, 221  
     classification of, 577  
**Calculus**, renal, 221, 331, 433  
     Shepherd, 458  
     vesical, choice of operation for removal of, 607  
**Calomel** as a diuretic, 268  
     in heart diseases, 158  
**Cancer**, a new cure for, 180  
     extirpation of tongue, floor of mouth, and submaxilla for, 105  
     mammary, amputation for, 275  
     uterine, in pregnancy and parturition, 101



- Cancroid, laryngeal, extirpation of, 683  
 Cantharides in treatment of rabies, 252  
 Capacity, testamentary, in illness, 14  
 Carbolicum oxydatum, formula for hypodermic use of, 625  
 Carbonic oxide, poisoning by, 448  
 Carcinoma, incipient, of cervix uteri, diagnosis of, 239  
     of pancreas, 527  
     of rectum, 218  
 Cardiac failure, cause of, in high altitudes, 695  
     lesions from excessive muscular exertion, Kelly, 477  
 Cartilage, semilunar, fixation of a displaced, 351  
 Case, obstetrical, with complications, White, 510  
 Castration of criminals, 363, 476  
 Caswell, Edward T., death of, 476  
 Catalepsy, 348, 532  
 Cataract, antiseptic operation for, 209  
     after-treatment of, 550  
     black, Burnett, 113  
     comparison of methods of removal of, 407  
     extraction, statistics of, 406  
     production of, by sound, 549  
 Catarrh, acute intestinal, absorption of fat in, 158  
     atrophic nasal, treatment of, Seiss, 370  
     cervical, treatment of, 208, 511  
     chronic aural, treatment of, Seiss, 154  
 Catheters, Eustachian, disinfection of, 376  
 Cavity, uterine, new method of dilating, 378  
 Cell-antagonism, Gregory, 645  
 Centenarians, collective study of, 39  
 Centennial of College of Physicians of Philadelphia, 43  
 Cerebellum, contribution to the pathology of the, 246  
 Cervix uteri, diagnosis of incipient carcinoma of the, 239  
 Chancroid, comparative frequency of the, 606  
 Chemicals, recent medicinal, 126  
 Chest, climatic treatment of diseases of the, 665  
 Chloroform and ether deaths, 166  
     and forceps, Free, 653  
     death from, 168, 214  
     narcosis, puncture of heart in, Watson, 619  
     selection of, as an anæsthetic, 440  
 Cholera, 82  
     among children, 41  
     Chinese treatment of, 55  
     Dr. Peacan's treatment of, 656  
     examination of contents of intestines of persons dead with, 624  
     infantum, nature and treatment of, Vaughan, 673  
     tyrotoxicum and, 687  
     in pregnancy, 603  
     prevention of, 532  
 Cigarettes, anti asthmatic, 408  
 Clavicle, fracture of, 669  
 Club foot, treatment of, 193  
 Cocaine, dangers of, 446  
     in labor, 99  
     in oral surgery, 436  
     in sea sickness, 126  
     in whooping-cough, 600  
     muriate, poisoning by, Way, 486  
     phenate of, 625  
     untoward effects of, 410  
 Codeine phosphate, 126  
 Coffee and iodoform, 708  
 Cohen, treatment of phthisis by gaseous enemata, 365  
 Colchicin, 126  
 Colds, treatment of, 406  
 Colorado Springs, climate of, 644  
 College of Physicians of Philadelphia, 110  
     centennial of, 43  
     reminiscences of, 47  
 Collmar, albumose- and peptone-fever, 206  
 Colocynthin, 126  
 Colotomy, inguinal, 187  
 Conception, dual, 435  
 Condurango in cancer of stomach, 434  
 Conjunctiva vera, measuring the, 277  
 Conguinuity and mental unsoundness, 239  
 Constipation, chronic, rational therapeutics of, 376  
     habitual, in children, treatment of, 435  
     infantile, 467  
     simple, management of, 125  
 Consumption, treatment of, by sulphuretted hydrogen and carbonic acid gas, 530  
 Contraction, Dupuytren's, 222  
 Copaiba, balsam of, formulæ for use of, 601  
 Cornea, seriginous ulcers of, treatment of, 654  
 Corrosive sublimate in obstetrics, 436  
     Davis, 309  
     in typhoid fever, 101  
     preparation of solutions of, 263  
 Cotton-root as a uterine hæmostatic, 185  
 Cotton, borated and salicylic, method of preparing, 489  
 Councilman, blood in malarial fever, 59  
 Cramp, writers', apparatus for relief of, 612  
 Creasote in pulmonary tuberculosis, 572  
 Cremation, 252, 270  
 Criminals, castration of, 363, 476  
 Croup, treatment of, 294, 465  
 Crown Prince, case of the, 685  
 Cultures, bacterial, mode of preparing potatoes for, Bolton, 318  
 Curette, the, as an abortifacient, 72  
 Cyst, congenital retroperitoneal, 222  
     hydatid, unusual site of a, 209  
     parovarian, 555  
 Cysticercus, intraocular, 346  
 Cystitis, treatment of, 292  
 Cystotomy, suprapubic, 277, 576, 606  
     Dennis, 589  
 Czerny-Lembert suture, the, 588  
 DAVIS, corrosive sublimate in obstetrics, 309  
     treatment of threatened rupture of uterus, 156  
 Dawson, priapism, 63  
 Death from electricity, 551  
     from sewer-air, 111  
     in the tea-bun, 711  
     sudden, following labor, 324  
     from introduction of aspirator needle, Reeve, 6  
     in pleurisy, 241  
     under ether, Reeve, 89  
     was it due to ether? 627  
 Deaths, chloroform and ether, 166  
 Death rate, English, decrease of, 55  
     in American and European lying-in hospitals, 361  
     in American lying-in hospitals, 390  
     of Boston Lying-in Hospital, 335  
     of lying in hospitals in the United States, Hirst, 253  
 Declaration of Independence, medical signers to the, 110, 137  
 Deformities, nasal, new operation for, 683  
 Dennis, suprapubic cystotomy, 589  
 Dentifrice, a new, 308  
 Dentists, women, in England, 364  
 Dercum, lead poisoning, 256  
 Dermatitis herpetiformis, Dühring, 256  
 Diabetes, arsenic and lithia in, 517  
     a specific for, 407  
     etiology of, 626  
     treatment of, 11  
 Diarrhœa, treatment of, 74, 654  
     in infants, 708  
 Diathesis, gouty, treatment of, 99  
 Digestion, salivary and gastric, influence of beer upon, Hare, 649  
 Digitalis, sparteine in comparison with, 601  
 Diphtheria, casts of tonsils and palatine folds from case of, 108  
     practical results in restricting, 605  
     treatment of, 124, 278, 321, 346, 360, 487  
     J. L. Smith, 402  
 Disease, Addison's, pathology of, 11  
     among the Indians, 168  
     Bright's, beverage for use in, 68  
     brain, diagnosis of, 546  
     ear, sea-bathing a cause of, Bacon, 122  
     insects carriers of, 336  
     malarial, picrate of ammonia in, 490  
     neuropathic joint, 44  
     puerperal, defective sanitation a cause of, 418  
 Diseases, acute febrile, meat extract in, 293  
     contagious, ambulances for, in Paris, 308  
     heart, calomel in, 158  
     kidney, hydropate of hyoscine in, 488  
     skin, common errors in treatment of, 389  
     surgical, comparison of, in white and colored races, 635  
     tubal, 351  
 Disinfectant, a new, 180  
     for apartments, 42  
 Disinfectants, 488  
 Disinfection of ships, 684  
 Dissection, regulations concerning cadavers for, 363  
 Diuretic, terpene as a, 572  
 Divorce, medico-legal questions in relation to the law of, 83  
 Dosage with children, 602  
 Douche, vaginal, 306  
 Drain, the string, 654  
 Drainage, defective, suit for damages for, 224  
 Dressing, an antiseptic, 42  
 Dressings, antiseptic, microorganisms under the, 518  
 Drumine, 157  
 Duboisine, toxic effects of small doses of, Kollock, 343  
 Dühring, dermatitis herpetiformis, 256  
 Dulles, hernia inguino-properitonealis, 92  
 Dupuytren's contraction, 222  
 Dwellings, disinfection of, 465  
 Dysentery, treatment of, in children, 374  
 Dyspnoea, cardiac, ether in, 628  
     paroxysmal cardiac, 296  
     Loomis, 283  
 Dysuria, treatment of, 42  
 EARS, precautions in the care of the, 490  
 Ear trumpets, 525  
 Earthquakes, influence of, upon health, 138  
     Guiltras, 37  
     magnetic phenomenon during, 252  
 Eclampsia, puerperal, 222  
 Eczema, treatment of, 98, 518  
 Elbow, excision of, 415  
     treatment of old dislocations of, 380  
 Electricity, death from, 551  
     induction of labor by, 242, 574  
     in gynecological practice, Graydon, 703  
     in the treatment of epilepsy, 301  
 Electrotherapy, polar method of, in gynecology, Engelmann, 538, 566, 598  
 Elephantiasis arabum, Mosely and Morison, 462  
 Embolism, puerperal cerebral, 21  
 Emesis, painful, remedies for, 436  
 Emphysema, treatment of, 293  
 Empyema, acute, in children, 640  
     pleurotomy for, Strickler, 505  
     spontaneous absorption of, in children, 639  
     surgical treatment of, 640  
 Endometritis, fungous, picric acid in, 659  
 Enemata, gaseous, administration of, simplified, Bracken, 514

Enemata, nutrient, 625  
 Engelmänn, polar method of electrotherapy in gynecology, 538, 566, 598  
 Epidemics, spread of, 180  
 Epididymitis, early syphilitic, 608  
 Epilepsy, cardiac, 686  
     cortical, 245  
     electricity in treatment of, 301  
     pathology and treatment of, 298  
 Epithelioma, intralaryngeal papilloma and, 703  
 Erigeron, oil of, 548  
 Eruption, remarkable bromide, 221  
 Ether, an accident with, 109  
     in cardiac dyspnoea, 628  
     or chloroform? 461  
     selection of, as an anæsthetic, 440  
     sudden death under, Reeve, 89  
     was it a death due to, 627  
 Examinations, formidable, 531  
 Experts, fees of, in Ohio, 129  
 Extrauterine pregnancy, termination and treatment of, 98  
 Eye lotions, distilled water in, 671  
     proving the soundness of an, 419  
 Eyes, comparison of, of whites, negroes, and Indians, 615  
     hygiene of the, among school children, 517  
 FAT, absorption of, in acute intestinal catarrh, 158  
 Faradization, general, and central galvanization, 84  
 Fauces, tuberculosis of, 322  
 Fee, a surgeon refused his, 643  
 Fees, expert, in Ohio, 129  
 Femur, acute osteomyelitis of, 219  
     dislocation of, in a young child, 390  
     necrosis of lower end of, 304  
 Fernandez, diagnosis of yellow fever, 337  
 Fertility of women, 519  
 Fever, albumose-, Ott and Collmar, 206  
     antipyretic treatment of, 662  
     hay, 631  
     prize essay on, 195  
     malarial, blood in, Councilman, 59  
     peptone-, Ott and Collmar, 206  
     scarlet, contagiousness of, Reed, 65  
     typhoid, hæmatemesis in, 573  
     in drinking water, 550  
     prognostic value of sudamina in, 602  
     remarkable outbreak of, 129  
     the microbe of, 490  
     treatment of, 68, 101, 547, 662  
     yellow, diagnosis of, Fernandez, 337  
     inoculation for, 572  
     investigation, 269  
     microbe of, 547  
     vaccination against, 549  
 Fevers, marsh, treatment of, 11  
 Fibroids, uterine, elastic ligature for, 210  
 Filters, efficiency of, 475  
 Filtration, fallacies of, 379  
 Finlayson, Manual for Study of Medical Cases, review of, 471  
 Fistula in ano, 189, 275  
     laryngeal, operative closure of, 81  
     thoracic, cure of, 554  
 Flannel, absorbent, 487  
 Flatfoot, aggravated, 305  
 Flint, Dr., memorial tablet of, 391  
 Fluid, an injecting, for anatomists, 294  
 Fluids, intra-tracheal injection of, 408  
 Fœtus, wound of, in utero, 435  
 Fogs, etiology of, 364  
 Foot, osteoplastic resection of the, 127, 470  
 Forceps, chloroform and, Free, 653  
 Foundlings, mortality of, 575  
 Fox, Wilson, death of, 588  
 Fractures, compound, device to secure fixation of fragments in, 488  
 Free, chloroform and forceps, 653  
 Friedländer, Carl, death of, 687  
 Fulton, Dr. John, death of, 659

GALL-BLADDER, surgical treatment of diseases of the, Ohage, 202, 233  
 Galvanization, central, and general faradization, 84  
 Garbage, disposal of, 531  
 Gastrotomy, 56  
     Bernays, 1  
     in Italy, 435  
 Gangrene, dry senile, in a child, 28  
 Gas, sewer, asphyxia from, 616  
 Gastrotomy for stricture of œsophagus, 191  
 Gauze, antiseptic, 433  
     carbolyzed, method of preparing, 464  
     iodoform, use of, in gynecology, 463  
     preparation of, 684  
 Gavage of the newborn, 604  
 Geddings, Dr. J. F. M., death of, 186  
 Germ life, variations in, of Potomac water, S. Smith, 404  
     typhoid, effect of freezing on, 157  
 Gerster, exsection of knee-joint for tuberculosis, 650  
 Gonococcus, color-test for detection of the, Wendt, 455  
 Goodell, a year's work in ovariectomy, 119  
 Gosselin, Leon, death of, 616  
 Gland, thyroid, functions of the, 523  
 Glands, parotid, removal of both, 494  
 Glycosuria, treatment of, 655  
 Graydon, electricity in gynecological practice, 703  
 Gregory, cell-antagonism, 645  
 Guitéras, influence of earthquakes upon health, 37  
 Guy's Hospital, fund for maintenance of, 112  
 Gymnastics in female colleges, 28  
 HAAAB, Sketch-book for Recording Ophthalmoscopic Observations, review of, 380  
 Hæmoptysis, hypodermatic injection of atropine in, 293  
 Hæmostatic, uterine, cotton-root as a, 185  
 Hair, tonic treatment of the, 466  
 Hands, disinfection of the, 214  
 Hare, influence of beer upon salivary and gastric digestion, 649  
     physiological action of spigelia or pink-root, 286  
 Harris, mortality of primary laparotomy, 564  
     first fifty Cæsarean operations under the Säger method, 344  
 Harvey's manuscript notes, 15  
 Head, human, horn growing from, 364  
     large, successful delivery of a, 10  
 Headaches, congestive, relief of, 634  
 Health, influence of earthquakes upon, 138  
     Guitéras, 37  
 Hearing, troubles of, among railway operatives, 158  
 Heart-beat, causation of, 21  
 Heart, chronic valvular diseases of the, prognosis in, 295  
     extreme dilatation of, 21  
     forced, of soldiers, 375  
     obstructive safety valve action in, 660  
     removal of a needle from the, 655  
     -strain, 488  
     treatment of diseases of, Bartholow, 449  
     weak, and heart-strain, 488  
 Hemiparesis, antipyrin in, 266, 335  
 Hemorrhage, alarming, arrest of, by torsion, 520  
     arterial, prevention of, 464, 502  
     nasal, frequent cause of, 699  
     obstinate, after tonsillotomy, 613  
     post-partum, 183  
     uterine, treatment of, 438  
 Hemorrhoids, 275  
     radical cure for, 188  
 Hepato-phlebotomy, Kelly, 617  
 Hernia, 275  
     inguino-properitoneal, Dulles, 92

Hernia, radical cure of, 323  
     right inguinal, 613  
     ventral, 609  
 Herniotomy, 518  
 Herring roe, poisoning by, 264  
 Hip joint, amputation at, 315  
     examination of, through rectum, 436  
     mechanical treatment of disease of, 556  
 Hirst, death-rate of lying in hospitals in the United States, 253  
 Holmes, Dr., and apothecaries, 477  
 Horn growing from the human head, 364  
 Hospital dressing, material of French army, 373  
 Hospitals, relation between managers and the medical staff of, 575  
     the, of Germany, 418  
 Hot Springs Hospital, 73  
 How early is the fœtus viable? 493  
 Hudson, E. Darwin, death of, 560  
 Hugenschmidt, treatment of pulmonary tuberculosis, 512  
 Hunt, Principles of Hygiene, review of, 352  
 Hydatid cyst, unusual site of a, 209  
 Hydrocele, double, 276  
 Hydrosalpinx, 132  
 Hygiene, proposed laboratory of, in University of Michigan, 27  
 Hymen, imperforate, O'Donovan, 457  
 Hyoscine hydropate, in kidney disease, 488  
 Hyperpyrexia, post-puerperal, treatment of, Skinner, 66  
 Hypnotic, a new, 238  
 Hysterectomy, 606, 712  
 ICE, bacteria in, 353  
     poultice, 572  
 Indians, disease among the, 168  
 Infection, venereal, pronounced a crime, 307  
 Imbecility, moral, 326  
 Impetigo, turpentine in, 466  
 Impulses, motor, irradiation of, 412  
 Infarction, hemorrhagic, 694  
 Injection, a sedative hypodermatic, 548  
 Injections, antiseptic hypodermatic, in bacterial maladies, 138  
     hypodermatic, new formulæ for, 466  
     rectal, of gas, 127  
 Innominate, ligature of the, 626  
 Insanity, a simple classification of, 182  
     self abuse in its relation to, 23  
 Insomnia, cause and treatment of, Sachs, 594  
     electricity in treatment of, Massey, 509  
 Intestine, how to suture the, 626  
 Intracranial pressure, 45  
 Intubation, 630, 668  
 Iodoform, 292, 348, 488, 616, 628  
     coffee and, 708  
     in phthisis, 98  
 Iodol, in diphtheria, 487  
     in laryngeal tuberculosis, 291  
 Iron, effect of, on composition of milk, 210  
     syrup of superphosphate of, and oxygen, 685  
 JAUNDICE, catarrhal, treatment of, 625  
 Jewell, James Stewart, death of, 476  
 Johnson's quantitative glucose test, Adams, 515  
 Joints, treatment of tuberculosis of, 710  
 Josselyn, early recognition of incipient melancholia, 314  
 KELLY, cardiac lesions from excessive muscular exertion, 477  
     hepato-phlebotomy, 617  
 Keen, pistolshot wound of abdomen, 533  
 Kidney, laceration of, 302  
     manipulation of the, 707  
     tuberculous disease of, 22

- King, Manual of Obstetrics, review of, 524  
 Knee, excision of, 183  
     Packard, 281  
 Knee-joint, excision of, for tuberculosis, Gerster, 650  
     irrigation of, 571  
     sarcomatous floating tumor of, 78  
 Kollock, abdominal section for traumatism, 480  
     toxic effects of small doses of duboisine, 343  
 LABOR, cocaine in, 99  
     death in, from dyspnoeic uræmia, 524  
     induction of, by electricity, 242, 574  
     signification of retention of membranes after, 374  
     sudden death following, 324  
     treatment of, in contracted pelves, 357  
     of third stage of, 296  
 Lactocrite, the, 587  
 Landois, Text book of Human Physiology, review of, 46  
 Lange, new operation for prolapsus ani, 206  
 Lanoline ointments, formulæ for, 157  
 Laparotomies, too frequent, 336  
 Laparotomy, 52, 78, 241, 581, 582  
     for pistolshot wound of abdomen, Packard, 339  
     primary mortality of, Harris, 564  
 Laryngectomy, description of a modified, 631  
 Laryngitis, treatment of, 697  
 Laryngotomy after intubation, 668  
 Larynx, excision of, Agnew, 401  
     feeding after intubation of, 667  
     foreign body in the, 716  
     intubation of, 126, 294, 630  
     Mason, 341  
     myalgia of, 633  
     stenosis of, 715  
     treatment of papilloma of, Mac Coy, 7  
 Lead, chromate of, in cakes, 16  
     poisoning from unusual source, Bidwell, 97  
 Leprosy, 504, 699  
 Leuf, anatomy and physiology of stomach, 429  
 Leukæmia, lymphatic, 22  
 Library of the Surgeon-General's Office, 103  
 Lieberkühn, death of, 587  
 Life, money value of, 700  
 Lithia in diabetes, 517  
 Litholapaxy, 211  
 Lithotomy, suprapubic, 108  
 Liver, cirrhosis of, in children, 660  
     knife-wound of, 292  
     suppurative inflammation of, 248  
 Localization, cerebral, and cranial topography, 491  
 Loomis, paroxysmal cardiac dyspnoea, 283  
 Lotion, anti-strumous resolvent, 518  
 Lung surgery, 242  
 Lupus and the bacillus tuberculosis, Reeves, 710  
 MAC COY, treatment of papilloma of larynx, 7  
 Macdonnell, interstitial nephritis, 57  
 Magni, Francesco, death of, 308  
 Malarial infection, treatment of severe, 519  
 Male fern, formula for oil of, 547  
 Marshall, crystalline acid in urine, 35  
     poisoning by lead chromate, 5  
 Mason, intubation of the larynx, 341  
 Massey, electricity in treatment of insomnia, 509  
 Maxillæ, osteoma and osteo-sarcoma of both superior, 54  
 Meadows, Dr. Alfred, death of, 553  
 Meat extract in acute febrile disease, 293  
 Meckel's diverticulum, bifid, 21  
 Mediastinum, anterior, primary sarcoma of, Bruen, 179  
 Medical instruction in Italy, 349  
     practice in China, 279  
 Medication, intrauterine, fatal result of, 517  
 Mediæval nastiness, 243  
 Medicine, European, and pharmacy, 111  
     in Spain, 252  
     regulation of practice of, in Minnesota, 391  
 Melancholia, incipient, early recognition of, Josselyn, 314  
 Membrane, persistent pupillary, 331  
 Membranes, fetal, retention of, 12, 99, 319, 374  
 Menorrhagia, treatment of, 265  
 Mental unsoundness, consanguinity and, 239  
 Menthol in phthisis, 626  
     lanolin ointment, 435  
     use of, 436  
 Mercuric chloride, recovery from overdose of, Armstrong, 67  
 Mercury, modes of administering, in syphilis, 464  
 Methylin, 446, 519  
 Metrorrhagia, treatment of, 265  
 Microbist, an early, 28  
 Microorganisms in the blood, 180  
 Midwifery, antiseptic, technique of, 492  
 Migraine, prescription for, 11  
 Milk, asses', for infants, 307  
     digestion of, 240  
     how to scald, 419  
     influence of drugs upon, when given to nurses, 322  
     use of uncooked, 407  
     effect of iron on composition of, 210  
 Millikin, iodide of potassium in brain tumor, 177  
 Mitchell, commemorative address, 29  
 Mixture, A.-C.-E., accidents accompanying use of, Sharp, 257  
 Morison, elephantiasis arabum, 462  
 Morphia habit, treatment of, 439  
 Morphia-taking, detection and treatment of, 658  
 Morton, operating-table and ward dressing-carriage, 706  
 Mosely, elephantiasis arabum, 462  
 Motion, passive, use and abuse of, Sands, 85  
 Mushrooms, poisoning by, 180  
 Mycotoxine, 181  
 Myositis ossificans, 160  
 Myrtol, 99  
 Myxedema, 73, 278, 435  
 NAMES, physicians', unauthorized use of, in advertising, 643  
 Nares, anterior, congenital occlusion of, 717  
     posterior, relief of, 7-6  
 Navy, medical department of the, 184  
 Needles, curved, for sewing abdominal wounds, 331  
 Neoplasms, painlessness or pain, 239  
 Nephrectomy, extirpation of uterus and, 406  
     and nephrorrhaphy, Agnew, 116  
     for pyonephrosis, 221  
 Nephritis, interstitial, Macdonnell, 57  
     scarlatinal, pathological anatomy of, 16  
 Nephrolithotomy, 296  
     Agnew, 682  
     Tiffany, 428  
 Nephrotomy, 303  
 Nephrorrhaphy and nephrectomy, Agnew, 116  
 Nerve, inferior maxillary, intrabuccal division of, 272  
     recurrent laryngeal, anatomy and physiology of the, 634  
     function of the, 633  
 Neuralgia, treatment of, 223, 613  
 Neuritis, multiple, 160  
     Starr, 141, 169, 197, 225  
     peripheral, 136  
 Neuroses, irritations of visual apparatus as elements in genesis of, 332  
 Neurotic, diet for the, 656  
 Newborn, antiseptics for the, 654  
     gavage of the, 604  
 Nipple-shield, a domestic, 292  
 Nitrate of silver, use of, in the deep urethra, 609  
 Nitroglycerine, indications for use of, 319  
 Nose, fracture of, 717  
     injuries of the, 271  
     peculiar bony tumor of the, 272  
 Notes, bacteriological, Sternberg, 231, 287, 372, 482  
 Numbness, waking, 629  
 OBSTETRIC instruments, antique Japanese, 615  
 Obstetrics, antiseptic, 263, 267  
     corrosive sublimate in, 436  
     Davis, 309  
 Obstruction, intestinal, White, 7  
 Oesophagus, stricture of, 104, 191, 601  
 O'Donovan, imperforate hymen, 457  
 Ohage, treatment of diseases of the gall-bladder, 202, 233  
 Oil, cod liver, 240  
 Ointment, lanolin mercurial, 12  
 Ointments, formulæ for, 436  
     lanolin, formulæ for, 157  
 Oithorectomies, summary of a table of, 41  
 Oithorectomy, propriety of, 10  
 Operating-table and ward dressing-carriage, Morton, 706  
 Operation, Cotting's, for ingrowing toenail, 306  
     Porro-Müller, 359, 420  
     Sänger's, a successful, 672  
 Operations, Cæsarean, first fifty, under the Sanger method, Harris, 344  
     Tait, three successful, 131  
 Ophthalmia, granular, carbolic acid in treatment of, 373  
     purulent, treatment of, 11  
 Ophthalmoscope, a modified Loring, 194  
 Osteoma of both superior maxillæ, 54  
 Osteomyelitis, acute, of femur, 219  
 Osteosarcoma of both superior maxillæ, 54  
 Otitis, eczematous, treatment of, 100  
 Ott, albumose- and peptone-fever, 206  
 Ovaries, cystic tumors of, microbic origin of, 659  
     cysto sarcomatous tumor of, 223  
     relation of phthisis to disease of the, 45  
 Ovariectomy, 20  
     a year's work in, Goodell, 119  
     statistics of, in Italy, 129  
 Ovary, dermoid cyst of, 20  
     hernia of, 613  
 PACHYMENINGITIS hæmorrhagica, 244  
     trephining for, 600  
 Packard, accident with the A.-C.-E. mixture, 38  
     excision of knee, 281  
     laparotomy for pistolshot wound of abdomen, 339  
 Pad, the antiseptic, 499  
 Pain, use of atropin for relief of, 604  
 Pancreas, carcinoma of, 527  
 Papilloma, intralaryngeal, and epithelioma, 709  
 Paraffin in surgery, 158  
 Paraldehyde, 487  
 Paralyses, painful, of early life, 136  
 Paralysis, alcoholic, 331  
     diphtheritic, of ocular muscles, 344  
     following fracture of clavicle, 669  
 Parasite, a new, in beef, 42  
 Parotitis, epidemic, 434  
 Parturition among the syphilitic, 182  
     uterine cancer in, 101  
 Parvin, Science and Art of Obstetrics, review of, 215



Pasteur, a letter from, 560  
and his institute, 587  
institute for Havana, 447  
Pasteurism and its results, 420  
Pasteur's method, v. Frisch's conclusions upon, 347  
treatment, results of, 465  
Patella, fractured, treatment of, 162  
Patient, nervous, how long to treat, 224  
Peckham, Fenner Harris, death of, 280  
Pelvis, a kyphotic, 516  
flat, treatment of labor complicated with, 213  
presentation of, cephalic version in, 268  
Penis, amputation of, 529  
horny growth of, 607  
Peptone-fever, Ott and Collmar, 206  
Peptone suppositories, 547  
Peritoneum, anatomical anomaly of the, A. J. Smith, 514  
Lawson Tait's method of cleansing, 516  
Peritonitis, treatment of, 68, 78, 241  
Pharmacy, European medicine and, 111  
Pharynx, excision of, Agnew, 401  
myalgia of, 633  
sarcoma of, 330  
Phelps, minor surgery at the Chambers Street Hospital, 236  
Phlebotomy, hepatic, and puncture, 325  
Phosphaturia, treatment of, 465  
Phosphorus in rickets, 320  
Phthisis, a postural theory of, 602  
in famine, 548  
relation of, to disease of ovaries, 45  
syphilitic, influence of sea air on, 665  
treatment of, 54, 98, 109, 294, 335, 346, 547, 624, 626, 655, 665, 666, 683, 695, 708  
by gaseous enemata, 352, 377, 708  
Bruen, 368  
Cohen, 365  
Trudeau, 453  
by sulphuretted hydrogen inhalations, Huguenschmidt, 512  
Physicians, American, in France, 587  
the Queen's, 615  
Piles, internal, excision of, 349  
Pill, anti neuralgic, 182  
Pillows, little, 420  
Pilocarpine in diphtheria, 321  
in lung affections, 552  
Pinkroot, physiological action of, Hare, 286  
Pistolshot, automatic, Woodhull, 404  
Pleurisy, sudden death in, 241  
Pleurotomy, Stricklen, 505  
Pneumatic differentiation, 661  
Pneumonia, treatment of, 133, 324  
at the Massachusetts General Hospital, 318  
in the New York hospitals, 290  
in the Philadelphia hospitals, 260  
Pneumotomy in pulmonary abscess, 266  
Poisoning after injection of corrosive sublimate, 15  
by carbolized cotton-wool, 473  
by carbonic oxide, 448  
by cocaine muriate, Way, 486  
by herring-roe, 264  
by lead chromate, Marshall, 5  
Stewart, 676  
by mushrooms, 180  
by water gas, 128  
lead, Dercum, 4  
from unusual source, Bidwell, 97  
through home-made wines, 55  
sewer gas, 693  
immunity of plumbers from, 448  
Poisons, studies in the elimination of, 68  
Politzometer, the, Prince, 621  
Pollution, well-water a source of, 84  
Polypus, naso-pharyngeal, removal of, 104  
Pomades, anesthetic, 684  
Porro-Müller operation, 359  
Potassium permanganate in amenorrhœa, 125

Poultice, ice, 572  
Pregnancy and its synonyms, 470  
cholera in, 603  
extrauterine, 98  
in an imperfectly canalized uterine cornu, 347  
pomade for cutaneous diseases during, 520  
uterine cancer in, 101  
Prescriptions, incompatible, 376  
Pressure, intracranial, 45  
Priapism, Dawson, 63  
Probe, the telephonic, use of, 192  
Prolapsus ani, new operation for, 220  
Lange, 206  
Prince, the politzometer, 621  
Procidencia uteri, Reamy, 393  
Professional interests, defence of, by French law, 643  
Projectiles, experiments with, 348  
Prolapsus ani, 330  
Prostatotomy, 608  
Psoriasis following vaccination, 21  
Psychiatry, nomenclature in, 472  
Pudding or praise, 438  
Puerperal state, late infection in the, 498  
Purgation, hypodermatic, 656  
Pustule, malignant, treatment of, 182  
Pyelitis, 607  
Pyelonephritis, Bruen, 288  
Pylorus, resection of the, 659  
Pyonephrosis, nephrectomy for, 221  
Pyridine, therapeutic uses of, 571  
QUARANTINE against yellow fever and smallpox, 615  
Quinine in pneumonia, 133  
RABIES, protective inoculation against, 185, 213  
treatment of, by cantharides, 252  
Races, white and colored, comparison of surgical diseases in the, 635  
Rags, disinfection of, 103  
Randall, large retinal vein crossing the macular region, 259  
Ranke, Prof. Johann R., death of, 196  
Reamy, procidencia uteri, 393  
Rectum, carcinoma of, 218  
sarcoma of, 271  
stricture of, 276  
Reed, contagiousness of scarlet fever, 65  
Reeve, sudden death from introduction of aspirator needle, 5  
under ether, 89  
Reeves, lupus and the bacillus tuberculosis, 701  
Reflex, the pathological nasal, 631  
Remedies, new, formulæ for hypodermatic use of, 571  
Reports, surgical, truthfulness of, 470  
Reputation, professional, 522  
Research, literary, methods of, 661  
Respiratory organs, local treatment of diseases of the, 696  
Responsibility, morbid sense of, 28  
Reviews—  
Bartholow, Medical Electricity, 553  
Bryant, Operative Surgery, 440  
Finlayson, Manual of Study of Medical Cases, 471  
Haab, Sketch-book for Recording Ophthalmoscopic Observations, 380  
Hunt, Principles of Hygiene, 352  
Journal of Comparative Medicine, 244  
King, Manual of Obstetrics, 524  
Landois, Human Physiology, 46  
Parvin, Science and Art of Obstetrics, 215  
Smith, Operative Surgery, 412  
Yeo, Manual of Physiology, 46  
Richardson, Elliott, death of, 560  
Rickets, phosphorus in, 320  
Rheumatism, gonorrhœal, treatment of, 608

Rhinitis, atrophic, treatment of, 633  
Rochester, Thomas F., death of, 605  
Rooms, inhabited, disinfection of, 465  
Rush, monument to, 440  
SACHS, cause and treatment of insomnia, 594  
Salol, 209, 240  
Sands, use and abuse of passive motion, 85  
Sänger's operation, a successful, 672  
Sanitation, defective, a cause of puerperal disease, 418  
Sarcoma of pharynx, 330  
primary, of anterior mediastinum, Bruen, 179  
Schröder, Prof., death of, 186  
Sciatica, treatment of, 208  
Sea-sickness, cocaine in, 126  
Section, abdominal, for pelvic adhesions, Shober, 507  
for traumatism, 215  
Kollock, 480  
auto-Cæsarean, 519  
Cæarean, 527, 659  
Sects, medical, and clinical instruction in public hospitals, 56  
Seiss, treatment of atrophic nasal catarrh, 370  
of chronic aural catarrh, 154  
Self-abuse in its relation to insanity, 23  
Septa, transverse, in cervix uteri, 602  
Septicæmia, intrauterine injections in, 351  
rare form of, 609  
Sewer-air, death from, 111  
Sex, determination of, 209  
Sharp, accidents accompanying use of A.-C.-E. mixture, 257  
Shepherd, renal calculus, 458  
Ships, disinfection of, 684  
emigrant, sanitation of, 688  
Shober, abdominal section for pelvic adhesions, 507  
Silver, iodoform and, 348  
Siphonage, trap, experiments in, 69  
Skeleton, the living, death of, 139  
Skin, absorption of corrosive sublimate by, 210  
-coloring from use of nitrate of silver, 417  
-grafting, malpractice suit for, 474  
Skinner, treatment of post-puerperal hyperpyrexia, 66  
Smallpox and rags, 475  
Smell, acuteness of sense of, 475  
Smith, A. J., anatomical anomaly of the peritoneum, 514  
Smith, J. L., local treatment of diphtheria, 402  
Smith, T., variations in germ life of Potomac water, 404  
Smith, S., Principles and Practice of Operative Surgery, review of, 412  
Snake bite, recurrence of symptoms of poisoning after, Yarrow, 623  
Soap, bichloride of mercury, 126  
Society Proceedings—  
American Climatological Association, 665, 695  
American Laryngological Association, 630, 697, 715  
American Medical Association, 688  
American Surgical Association, 576, 609, 635, 711  
Association of American Physicians, 660, 693  
Association of Genito-Urinary Surgeons, 605  
College of Physicians of Philadelphia, 47, 412  
Montreal Medico-Chirurgical Society, 21, 221, 278, 389  
New York Academy of Medicine, 74, 133, 192, 250, 298, 353, 360, 386, 440, 500, 556, 639, 666  
New York County Medical Association, 16, 257

- Society Proceedings—  
 New York Neurological Society, 22, 136, 244, 331, 471, 611  
 New York Surgical Society, 50, 77, 104, 162, 187, 218, 270, 302, 329, 380, 415, 494, 553, 584, 613, 669  
 Obstetrical Society of Philadelphia, 130, 277, 357, 498  
 Philadelphia County Medical Society, 108, 135, 215, 248, 331, 352, 525, 556, 612  
 Philadelphia Neurological Society, 326  
 Rhode Island Medical Society, 20  
 Toronto Medical Society, 190
- Solutions, hypodermatic, decomposition of, 239  
 Sparteine in comparison with digitalis, 601  
 Spelling, English, reform in, 616  
 Spigelia, physiological action of, Hare, 286  
 Spina bifida, 276  
 Spleen, extirpation of, 321, 656  
 Splenectomy, 467, 714  
 Spray, rhigolene and oil as a vehicle for, Stabler, 429  
 St. Augustine, Fla., climatology of, 642  
 Stabler, rhigolene and oil as a vehicle for the spray, 429  
 Starr, multiple neuritis, 141, 169, 197, 225  
 Sternberg, bacteriological notes, 231, 287, 372, 482  
 Stewart, poisoning by lead chromate, 676  
 Stomach, anatomy and physiology of, Leuf, 429  
   aspiration of, 161  
   cancer of, condurango in, 434  
     diagnosis of, 125  
   dilatation of, 22  
   examination of, a five years after excision of its pylorus, 626  
   pistolshot wound of, laparotomy for, 52  
 Stone, operation for, 578  
 Strickler, pleurotomy for empyema, 505  
 Stricture, urethral, treatment of, 135  
 Strychnine, arseniate, of, and pepsine, 655  
 Students, college, certificate of illness of, 447  
   female medical, abroad, 420  
 Sudamina, prognostic value of, in typhoid fever, 602  
 Sulphuretted hydrogen inhalations, 539  
 Suppuration, the cause of, 602  
 Surgeons, army and navy, pay of, 473  
 Surgery, aseptic ophthalmic, 437  
   brain, Birdsall and Weir, 421  
   in Spain, 252  
   lung, 242  
   minor, at Chambers Street Hospital, Phelps, 236  
   need and value of coöperative work in, 576  
   oral, cocaine in, 436  
   paraffin in, 158  
 Suture, the Czerny-Lembert, 588  
 Sword, fatality of the, as a weapon, 476  
 Syme's abdominal tourniquet, 56  
 Symphysiotomy, 699  
 Syphilis, idiosyncrasy as affecting the specific treatment of, 607  
   mode of administering mercury in, 464  
   treatment of, 101  
   of late neoplasms of, 608  
 Syringes, hypodermatic, how to keep pervious, 392
- TALIPES equino-varus, treatment of, 50  
 Technicality, a new, 560  
 Teeth, importance of, as a means of identification, 588  
   prophylaxis of the, 433  
 "Temperance drinks," analysis of, 503  
 Temperature, new method of taking, in children, 489
- Tendon, quadriceps extensor, rupture of, 494  
 Tendons, peroneal, chronic tendo-synovitis of, 305  
 Tents, uterine, disinfection of, 376  
 Terebene, preparations of, 407  
 Terpene as a diuretic, 573  
   in neuralgia, 223  
 Test, Johnson's quantitative glucose, Adams, 515  
 Thalin, fatal result of large doses of, 489  
   in typhoid fever, 68, 662  
 Thermometer, a lecture, 252  
 Thought-reading, 25  
 Throat affections, constitutional causes of, 715  
   sensory, 633  
   treatment of incised wounds of, 405  
 Thymol in treatment of atrophic nasal catarrh, 370  
 Thyroid, tumor of, removal of, 77  
 Tibia, abscess of head of, 271  
 Tic douloureux, 328  
 Tiffany, nephrolithotomy, 428  
 Toenail, ingrowing, Cotting's operation for, 306  
 Tongue, extirpation of, for cancer, 105  
   hypertrophy of, 711  
 Tonsillitis in adolescents, 44  
 Tonsils, hypertrophied, treatment of, 698  
   treatment of chronic enlargement of, 655  
 Tooth powders, 168  
 Topography, cranial, and cerebral localization, 491  
 Tourniquet, Syme's abdominal, 56  
 Tracheotomy, antiseptic in, 520  
   when to do, 520  
 Treatment, an old, revived, 493  
 Trudeau, treatment of phthisis with gaseous enemata, 453  
 Tube, the drainage, 504  
 Tuberculosis, direct inoculation of, in Alaska, 549  
   excision of knee-joint for, Gerster, 650  
   heredity of, 684  
   inoculation of, in a child, 320  
   laryngeal, iodol treatment of, 291  
   of fauces, 322  
   pulmonary, creasote in, 572  
 Tumor, brain, iodide of potassium in, Millikin, 177  
   cerebral, 611  
   cysto-sarcomatous, of ovaries and uterus, 223  
   intracranial, removal of, 438  
   lachrymal, treatment of, 571  
   post-nasal sarcomatous, 467  
   recurrent naso-pharyngeal, treatment of, 716  
   sarcomatous floating, of knee-joint, 78  
   removal of, from brain, 273  
   thyroid, removal of, 77  
 Turpentine in croup, 294  
   in impetigo, 466  
 Typhoid bacillus, the, 158  
   germ, effect of freezing on the, 157  
 Tyrotoxin and cholera infantum, 687  
   chemistry of, Vaughan, 369  
   poisoning by, 570
- ULCER, gastric, etiology of, 412  
 University of Westminster, 102  
 Urethra, rupture of, 277  
 Urethrotomy, 276  
 Urine, 69  
   crystalline acid in, Marshall, 35  
   influence of venous stasis upon secretion of, 320  
   -testing, 124  
 Uterus, carcinomatous, vaginal extirpation of, 106  
 Uterus, cysto-sarcomatous tumor of, 223  
   extirpation of, 406, 411  
   fibroid tumors of, microbic origin of, 659  
   treatment of backward displacements of, 469  
   of threatened rupture of, Davis, 156
- VACCINATION, German commission on, 319  
 Varicocele, 276, 624  
 Variola, xylol in, 405  
 Vaughan, chemistry of tyrotoxin, 369  
   nature and treatment of cholera infantum, 673  
 Vein, internal jugular, wound of, 222  
   large retinal, crossing the macular region, Randall, 59  
 Veins, varicose, treatment of, 72  
 Vent, not ventilation, 363  
 Ventilation, cheap, 336  
 Ventricle, right, relief of over-distention of, by leeching, 572  
 Vermiluge powder, a, 549  
 Version, cephalic, in presentation of the pelvis, 258  
 Vertebra, fifth cervical, fracture of, 553  
 Vienna Hospital, statistics of the, 196  
 Vomiting, treatment of, associated with uterine catarrh, 434  
 Vulpian, Edmond Felix Alfred, death of, 605
- WATER, purification of, by chemicals, 264  
 Water-gas, effects of, on man, Bontecou, 118  
   fatal poisoning by, 128  
 Watson, puncture of heart in chloroform narcosis, 619  
 Way, poisoning by cocaine muriate, 486  
 Weeks, Albion D., death of, 252  
 Weir, brain surgery, 421  
 Wendt, color-test for detection of the gonococcus, 455  
 Wet nurses, infection of, by syphilitic sucklings, 307  
 Wet nursing at Randall's Island Nursery, 307  
 Wharton, steel pin impacted in bronchus, 156  
 White, obstetrical case with complications, 510  
   intestinal obstruction, 7  
 Who should visit Carlsbad? 419  
 Whooping-cough, treatment of, 182, 320, 600, 624  
 Wine, diastasized, 474  
 Wintergreen, oil of, in gonorrhoeal rheumatism, 608  
 Women, the higher education of, 196  
 Woodhull, automatic pistolshot, 404  
 Wounds, cranial and heart, medico-legal aspects of, 610  
   Agnew, 561  
   treatment of, 408, 487, 655, 714  
 Wrist-joint, resection of, 305  
 Wyeth, ligation of external carotid artery, 312
- XYLOL in variola, 405
- YARROW, recurrence of symptoms of poisoning after snake bites, 623  
 Yeo, Manual of Physiology, review of, 46  
 Youmans, E. L., death of, 129
- ZONES, hysterogenic, on mucous, surfaces, 98

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## CONTENTS

### ORIGINAL LECTURES.

**The Middleton Goldsmith Lectures.**  
Delivered under the Direction of the New York Pathological Society. By M. ALLEN STARR, M.D., Ph.D., Professor of Nervous Diseases in New York Polyclinic.—Lecture II., January 22, 1887. Multiple Neuritis and its Relation to Certain Peripheral Neuroses . . . . . 169

### ORIGINAL ARTICLES.

**Is the danger from Post-partum Hemorrhage increased by the Use of Anæsthetics during Parturition?** By FORDYCE BARKER, M.D., LL.D., of New York . . . . . 174  
**Large Doses of Iodide of Potassium in a Case of Probably Specific Brain Tumor.** By B. L. MILLIKIN, M.D., Ophthalmic and Aural Surgeon to Charity and St. Alexis Hospitals, Cleveland, Ohio 177  
**A Case of Primary Sarcoma in the Anterior Mediastinum.** By EDWARD T. BRUEN, M.D., Assistant Professor of Physical Diagnosis, University of Pennsylvania . . . . . 179

### MEDICAL PROGRESS.

**Asepsis: a New Disinfectant—Poisoning by Mushrooms—Anti-parasitic Injection for Blenorrhœa—A New "Cure for Cancer"—Microorganisms in the Blood; Spread of Epidemics . . . . . 180**  
**Myoclonine . . . . . 181**

**Treatment of Cerebral Anæmia—Treatment of Malignant Pustule—Anti-neuralgic pill—A Simple Classification of Insanity—The Therapeutics of Whooping-cough—An Application in Blenorrhœa—Parturition among the Syphilitic . . . . . 182**

### EDITORIAL ARTICLES.

**Excision of the Knee . . . . . 183**  
**Anæsthesia in Labor does not Cause Post-partum Hemorrhage . . . . . 183**  
**The Medical Departments of the Army and Navy . . . . . 184**  
**Protective Inoculation against Rabies 185**  
**Decoction of Cotton-root as a Uterine Hæmostatic . . . . . 185**  
**The New Japanese Pharmacopœia . . . 185**  
**New York State Medical Society . . . 186**  
**Death of Dr. J. F. M. Geddings . . . 186**  
**The Telephone as a Conveyer of Infectious Diseases . . . . . 186**  
**Death of Professor Schröder . . . . . 186**  
**Vital Statistics in Michigan . . . . . 186**  
**The International Congress of Hygiene and Demography . . . . . 186**  
**A Pasteur Hospital in London . . . . . 187**

### SOCIETY PROCEEDINGS.

**New York Surgical Society.** Stated Meeting, January 12, 1887. The President, Charles McBurney, M.D., in the Chair.—Inguinal Colotomy . . . . . 187  
**A New Radical Operation for Hemorrhoids 188**  
**Complete Excision of Fistula in Ano . . 189**  
**Excision of the Ankle-joint—Case of Aneurism of the Innominate Artery Treated by Ligature of the Carotid and Subclavian . 190**

**Toronto Medical Society.** Stated Meeting January 5, 1887. The President, Dr. McPhedran, in the Chair.—The Uterine Appendages . . . . . 190  
**Placenta from a Case of Twin Pregnancy—Gastrostomy for Malignant Stricture of the Esophagus . . . . . 191**

**New York Academy of Medicine.** Stated Meeting, February 3, 1887. The President, A. Jacobi, M.D., in the Chair.—Address by the President—A Committee on Building Site—The Detecting and Locating of Metallic Masses in the Human Body by the Induction Balance and the Telephonic Probe . . . . . 192  
**Traction in the Treatment of Club-foot . . 193**

### NEW INVENTIONS.

**A Modified Loring Ophthalmoscope.** By B. ALEX. RANDALL, A.M., M.D., of Philadelphia . . . . . 194

### NEWS ITEMS.

**A Prize Essay on Hay-fever—The Springfield, Mass., City Hospital—Dr. Thomas E. McArdle—A New German Monthly Devoted to Therapeutics . . . . . 195**  
**Berlin Disinfection Stations—Professor Johann Rudolph Ranke—The Vienna Hospital—The Higher Education of Women . . . . . 196**

### NOTES AND QUERIES.

**A Correction . . . . . 196**  
**Official List of Changes in the Stations and Duties of Officers Serving in the Medical Department of the U. S. Army, from February 1 to February 7, 1887 . . . 196**

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### CONTENTS.

Diseases of the Heart and Circulation, by J. MITCHELL BRUCE, M.D., F.R.C.P.; Diseases of the Lungs and Organs of Respiration, by R. DOUGLAS POWELL, M.D., F.R.C.P.; Diseases of the Nervous System, by JAMES ROSS, M.D., F.R.C.P.; Diseases of the Stomach, Intestines, Liver, etc., by SIR DYCE DUCKWORTH, M.D., F.R.C.P., and ROBERT MAGUIRE, M.D., M.R.C.P.; Diseases of the Kidney, Diabetes, etc., by CHARLES HENRY RALFE, M.D., CANTAB., F.R.C.P.; Rheumatism and Gout, by ROBERT MAGUIRE, M.D., M.R.C.P.; Anæmia and Allied Conditions, by SYDNEY COUPLAND, M.D., F.R.C.P.; Medical Diseases of Children, by JAMES F. GOODHART, M.D., F.R.C.P.; Continued Fevers, by SYDNEY PHILLIPS, M.D., M.R.C.P.; General Surgery, by THOMAS BRYANT, F.R.C.S., and FREDERICK TREVES, F.R.C.S.; Orthopædic Surgery, by W. J. WALSHAM, F.R.C.S., ENG.; Surgical Diseases of Children, by EDMUND OWEN, F.R.C.S.; Diseases of the Genito-Urinary System, by REGINALD HARRISON, F.R.C.S.; Venereal Diseases, by ALFRED COOPER, F.R.C.S.; The Diseases of Women, by D. BERRY HART, M.D., F.R.C.P., EDIN.; Midwifery, by FRANCIS H. CHAMPEYNS, M.B., F.R.C.P.; Diseases of the Skin, by MALCOLM MORRIS, F.R.C.S., EDIN.; Diseases of the Eye, by HENRY POWER, M.B., F.R.C.S.; Diseases of the Ear, by GEORGE P. FIELD, M.R.C.S.; Diseases of the Nose and Throat, by P. MCBRIDE, M.D., F.R.C.P., EDIN., F.R.S., EDIN.  
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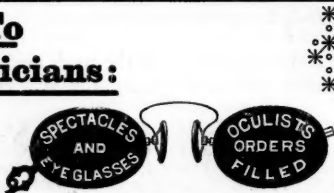
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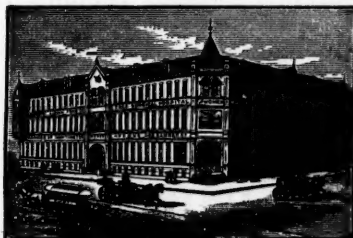
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